

ABSTRACT

In *unit testing*, a program is decomposed into units which are collections of functions. A part of unit can be tested by generating inputs for a single entry function. The entry function may contain pointer arguments, in which case the inputs to the unit are *memory graphs*. The paper addresses the problem of automating unit testing with memory graphs as inputs. The approach used builds on previous work combining *symbolic* and *concrete execution*, and more specifically, using such a combination to *generate test inputs* to explore all feasible execution paths. The current work develops a method to represent and track constraints that capture the behavior of a symbolic execution of a unit with memory graphs as inputs. Moreover, an efficient constraint solver is proposed to facilitate incremental generation of such test inputs. Finally, CUTE, a tool implementing the method is described together with the results of applying CUTE to real-world examples of C code.

Categories and Subject Descriptors: D.2.5 [Software Engineering]: Testing and Debugging

General Terms: Reliability, Verification

Keywords: concolic testing, random testing, explicit path model-checking, data structure testing, unit testing, testing C programs.

1. INTRODUCTION

Unit testing is a method for modular testing of a programs' functional behavior. A program is decomposed into units, where each unit is a collection of functions, and the units are independently tested. Such testing requires specification of values for the inputs (or *test inputs*) to the unit. Manual specification of such values is labor intensive and cannot guarantee that all possible behaviors of the unit will be observed during the testing.

In order to improve the range of behaviors observed (or *test coverage*), several techniques have been proposed to automatically generate values for the inputs. One such tech-

nique is to *randomly* choose the values over the domain of potential inputs [4, 8, 10, 21]. The problem with such random testing is two fold: first, many sets of values may lead to the same observable behavior and are thus *redundant*, and second, the probability of selecting particular inputs that cause buggy behavior may be astronomically small [20].

One approach which addresses the problem of redundant executions and increases test coverage is *symbolic execution* [1, 3, 9, 22, 23, 27, 28, 30]. In symbolic execution, a program is executed using symbolic variables in place of concrete values for inputs. Each conditional expression in the program represents a constraint that determines an *execution path*. Observe that the feasible executions of a program can be represented as a tree, where the branch points in a program are internal nodes of the tree. The goal is to generate concrete values for inputs which would result in different paths being taken. The classic approach is to use depth first exploration of the paths by backtracking [14]. Unfortunately, for large or complex units, it is computationally intractable to precisely maintain and solve the constraints required for test generation.

To the best of our knowledge, Larson and Austin were the first to propose combining concrete and symbolic execution [16]. In their approach, the program is executed on some user-provided concrete input values. Symbolic path constraints are generated for the specific execution. These constraints are solved, if feasible, to see whether there are potential input values that would have led to a violation along the same execution path. This improves coverage while avoiding the computational cost associated with full-blown symbolic execution which exercises all possible execution paths.

Godefroid et al. proposed incrementally generating test inputs by combining concrete and symbolic execution [11]. In Godefroid et al.'s approach, during a concrete execution, a conjunction of symbolic constraints along the path of the execution is generated. These constraints are modified and then solved, if feasible, to generate further test inputs which would direct the program along alternative paths. Specifically, they systematically negate the conjuncts in the path constraint to provide a depth first exploration of all paths in the computation tree. If it is not feasible to solve the modified constraints, Godefroid et al. propose simply substituting random concrete values.

A challenge in applying Godefroid et al.'s approach is to provide methods which extract and solve the constraints generated by a program. This problem is particularly com-

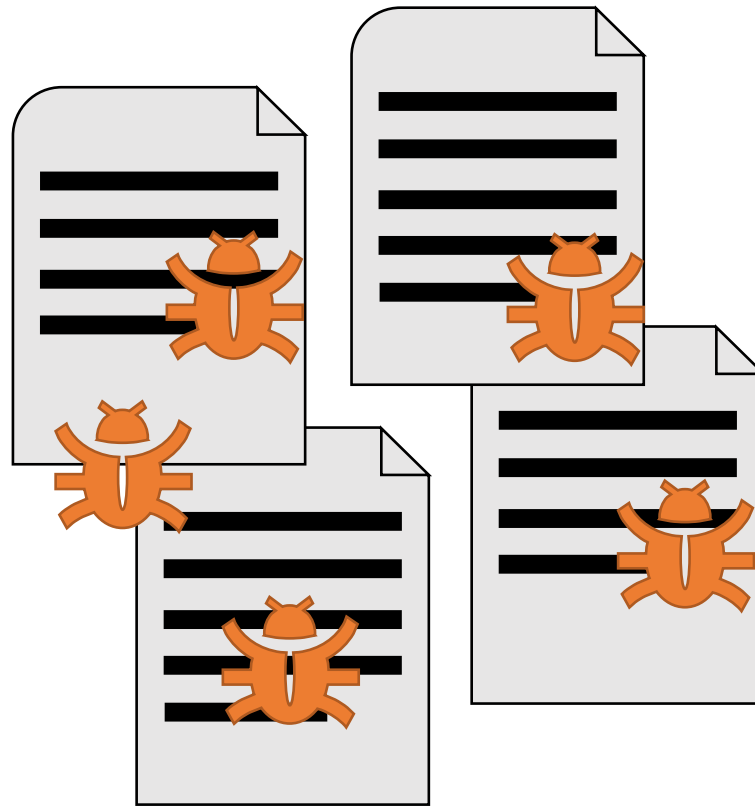
CUTE: A Concolic Unit Testing Engine for C (ACM SIGSOFT Impact Award 2019)

Koushik Sen, UC Berkeley

Darko Marinov, UIUC

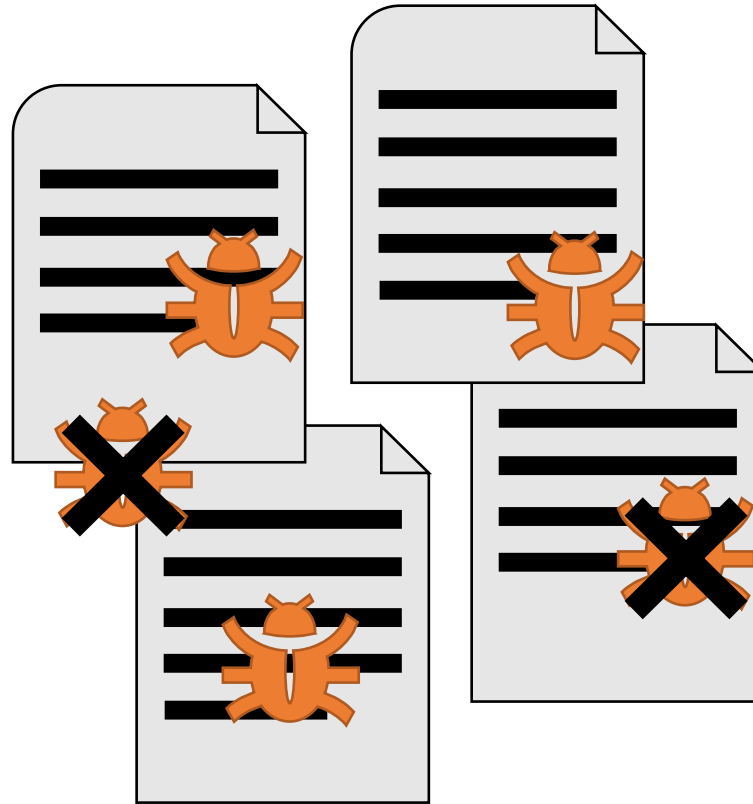
Gul Agha, UIUC

Programs Have Bugs

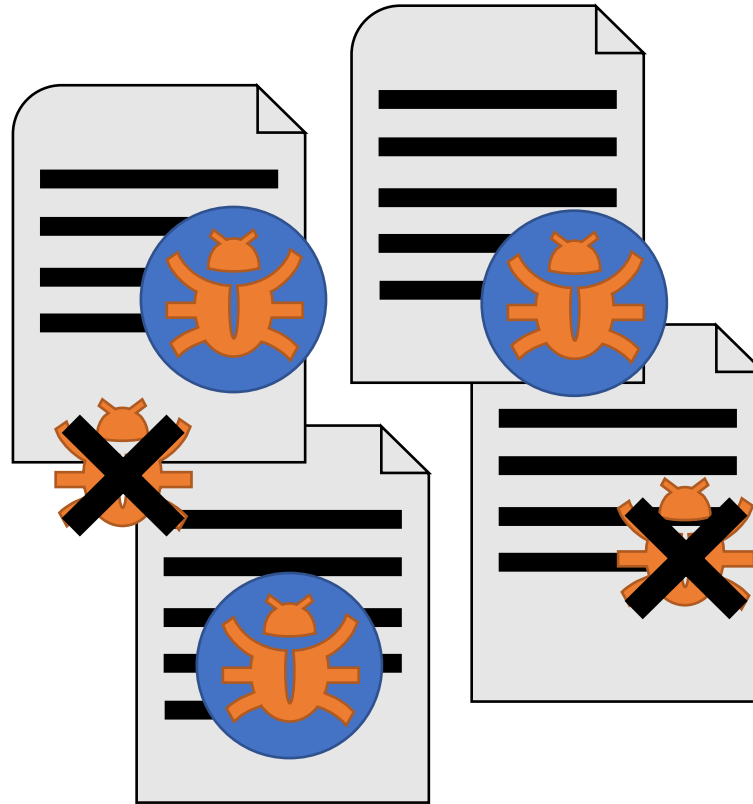


Why Program Testing?

- ✓ Programmer familiarity
- ✓ Concrete input for debugging
- ✓ No false positives
- ✓ Easy regression



Why Automated Testing?



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Symbolic Execution

Symbolic Execution

The objective of the automated testing project is to perform automated generation of test inputs that obtain high coverage for flexible (user-definable) coverage metrics and to check properties of code during test case generation.

To this end, we have developed a tool, Symbolic JPF, that combines symbolic execution with model checking and constraint solving for test case generation. In this tool, programs are executed on symbolic inputs representing multiple concrete inputs. Values of variables are represented as numeric constraints, generated from analysis of the code structure. These constraints are then solved to generate test inputs guaranteed to reach that part of code. Essentially Symbolic JPF performs symbolic execution for Java programs at the bytecode level. Symbolic JPF uses the analysis engine of the Ames JPF model checking tool.

Symbolic JPF

- Performs symbolic execution of Java bytecodes



Symbolic Execution

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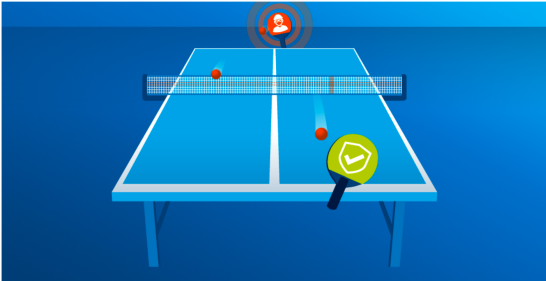
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By [Engblom, Jakob \(Intel\)](#), published on June 6, 2017 [Translate](#)



Finding vulnerabilities in code is part of the constant security game between attackers and defenders. An attacker only needs to find one opening to be successful, while a defender needs to search for and plug all or at least most of the holes in a system. Thus, a defender needs more effective tools than the attacker to come out ahead.

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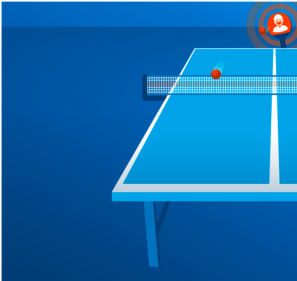
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'Mayhem' System Wins DARPA's Cyber Grand Challenge

An automated system called "Mayhem" took home the top prize in the Cyber Grand Challenge, sponsored by DARPA.

DARPA has named the presumptive winner of its [Cyber Grand Challenge](#) (CGC), which wrapped up Aug. 4 at the Paris Las Vegas Conference Center.

A system called "Mayhem" was declared the likely winner of the world's first all-hacking competition, which is culminating a three-year push by DARPA to drive innovation in cybersecurity.



7 Cool Data Center Innovations

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Automated Test Generation Trend

- 1976: King'76, Clarke'76, Howden'77
- 2000: Java PathFinder
- 2001: Started my PhD UIUC
- 2001: SLAM/Blast: Automatic predicate abstraction
- 2001: Java PathExplorer: Runtime Verification
- 2003: Runtime monitoring with Eagle (Internship)
- 2003: Generalized Symbolic Execution

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- 2003: Generalized Symbolic Execution
- 2005: DART: Directed Automated Random Testing (Internship)
- 2005: CUTE: A Concolic Unit Testing Engine for C
- 2006: jCUTE: Concolic Testing for Multi-threaded programs

Symbolic JPF, KLEE, CREST, S²E, Angr, Veritesting, Mayhem, Triton, Jalangi, CATG

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In concolic testing, what does "concrete execution" mean?

8

I came across the terms "concrete & symbolic execution" when I was going through the concept of [concolic testing](#). (The article mentioned there, "CUTE: A concolic unit testing engine for C", uses that term in its abstract section.)

"The approach used builds on previous work combining symbolic and concrete execution, and more specifically, using such a combination to generate test inputs to explore all feasible execution paths."

1

Can anyone please confirm what "concrete execution" means? In spite of my search, I could not find any direct citations / explicit statements.

From what I have understood, "concrete execution" means "the execution of a program with actual input values unlike symbolic execution, which assumes symbolic values to variables, inputs etc.". If I am wrong, please correct me (if possible with a small example).

testing execution formal-verification

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edited Jan 24 '15 at 18:47

asked Jan 24 '15 at 18:16

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2 Answers

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Concolic execution is a mix between CONCrete execution and symbOLIC execution, with the purpose of feasibility.

Symbolic execution allows us to execute a program through all possible execution paths, thus achieving all possible path conditions (path condition = the set of logical constraints that takes us to a

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Concolic Testing Automated Testing Software Testing

What is concolic testing?

1 Answer

Martin Gollogly, Develop Test Frameworks, Usually write and test code
Answered Oct 26 2016 · Author has 205 answers and 418.5k answer views

Concolic is a portmanteau of **CON**Crete execution and symb**OLIC** execution. It's also known as Directed Automated Random Testing (DART). It's a way to automatically and systematically generate test inputs for programs.

A good definition can be found at [Concolic testing - Wikipedia](#) which also has many useful links for further reading

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What is Concolic testing?

- Combine **concrete execution** and **symbolic execution**

Concrete + Symbol**ic** = Concolic



concolic



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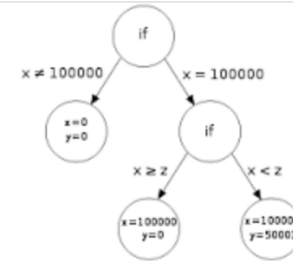
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Concolic testing (a portmanteau of concrete and symbolic) is a hybrid software verification technique that performs symbolic execution, a classical technique that treats program variables as symbolic variables, along a concrete execution (testing on particular inputs) path.



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[Birth of concolic testing](#) · [Example](#) · [Algorithm](#) · [Commercial success](#)

[Concolic Fuzzing - Generating Software Tests - Fuzzing Book](#)

<https://www.fuzzingbook.org/html/ConcolicFuzzer>

The idea of **concolic** execution over a function is as follows: We start with a sample input for the function, and execute the function under trace. At each point the ...

[\[PDF\] Symbolic and Concolic Execution - Verimag](#)

www-verimag.imag.fr/~mounier/Enseignement/Software_Security

Each theory comes with a set of axioms (FOL formulas), called A, which only contain elements from the signature. The predicates and functions in have no ...

[why on earth is concolic execution better? · Issue #907 · klee/klee](#)

Goal

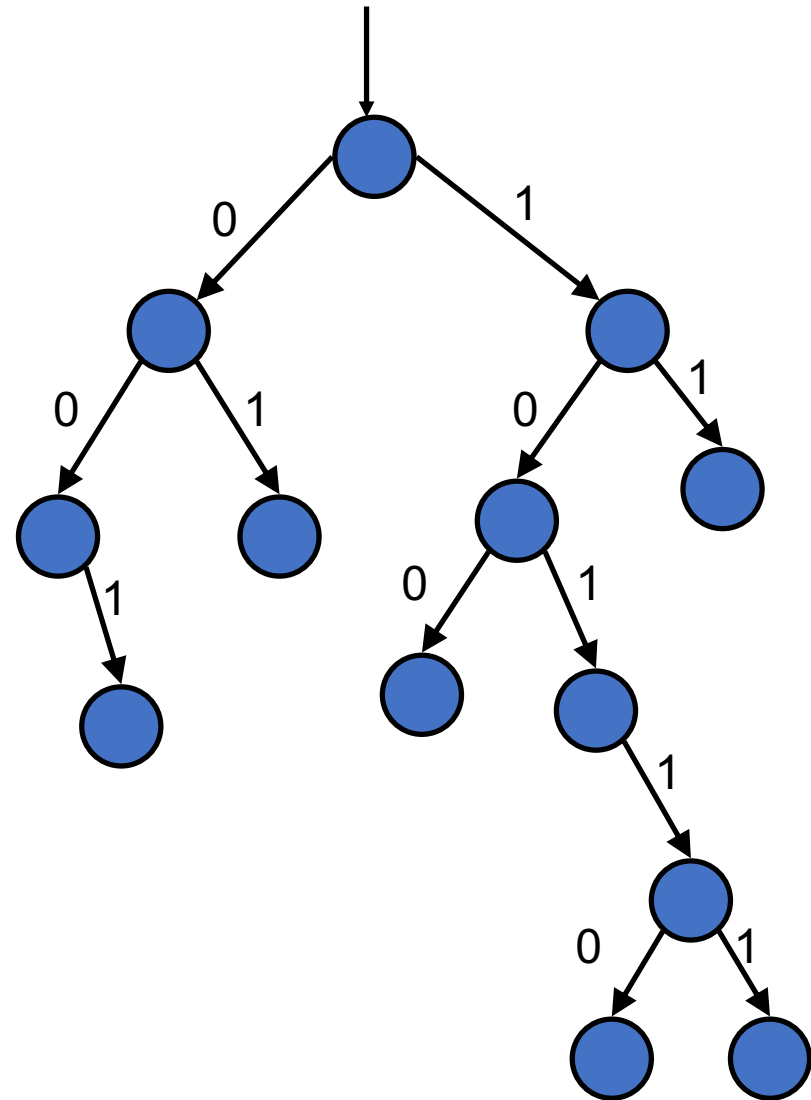
- Automated Unit Testing of real-world C and Java Programs
 - Generate test inputs
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 - so that all reachable statements are executed
 - Any assertion violation gets caught

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- Automated Unit Testing of real-world C and Java Programs
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 - so that all reachable statements are executed
 - Any assertion violation gets caught
- Concolic Testing Approach:
 - Explore all execution paths of an unit for all possible inputs

Computation Tree

- Can be seen as a **binary tree** with possibly infinite depth
 - **Computation tree**
- Each **node** represents the execution of a “**if then else**” statement
- Each **edge** represents the execution of a sequence of non-conditional statements
- Each path in the tree represents an equivalence class of inputs

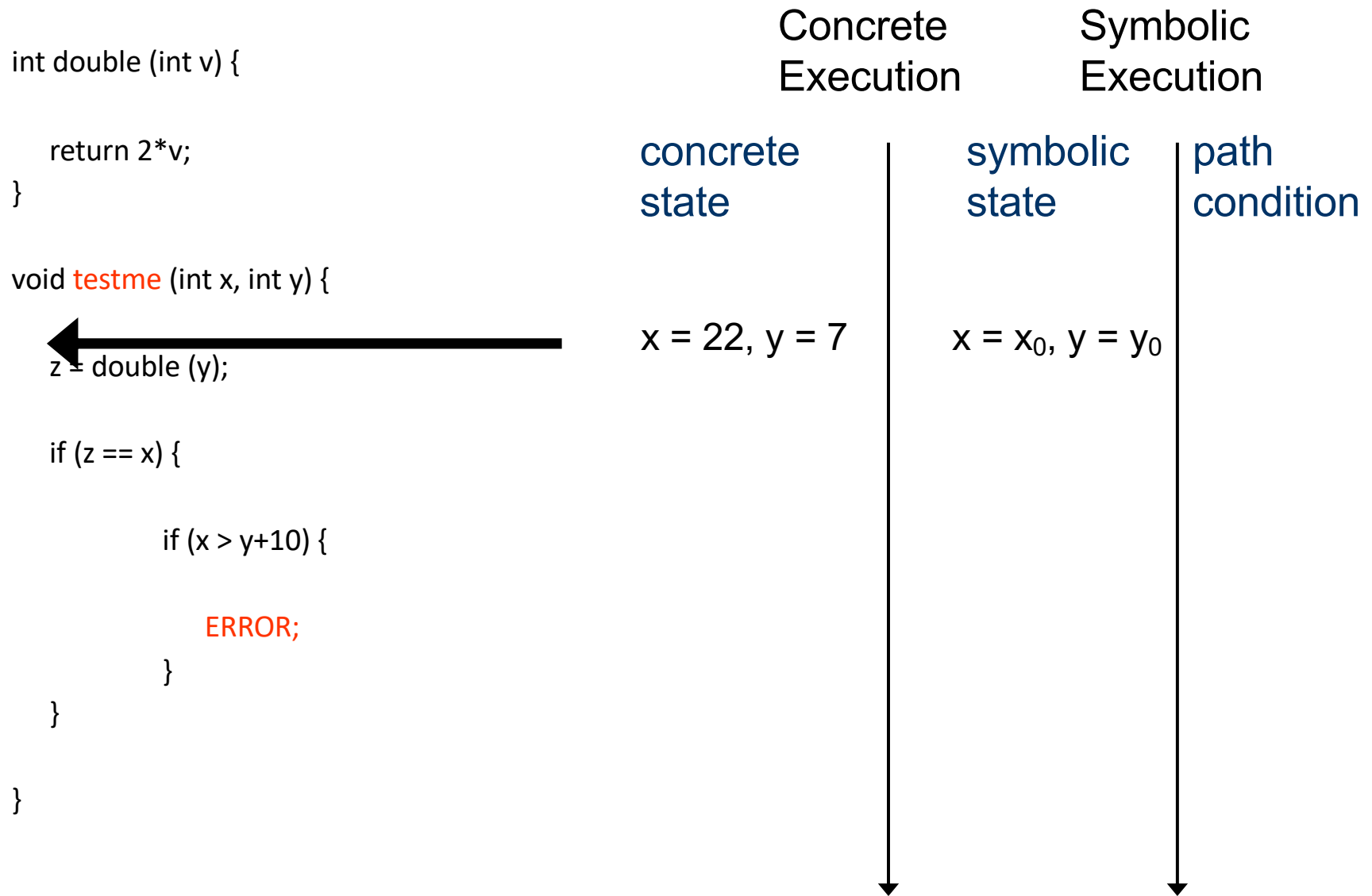


Concolic Testing Approach

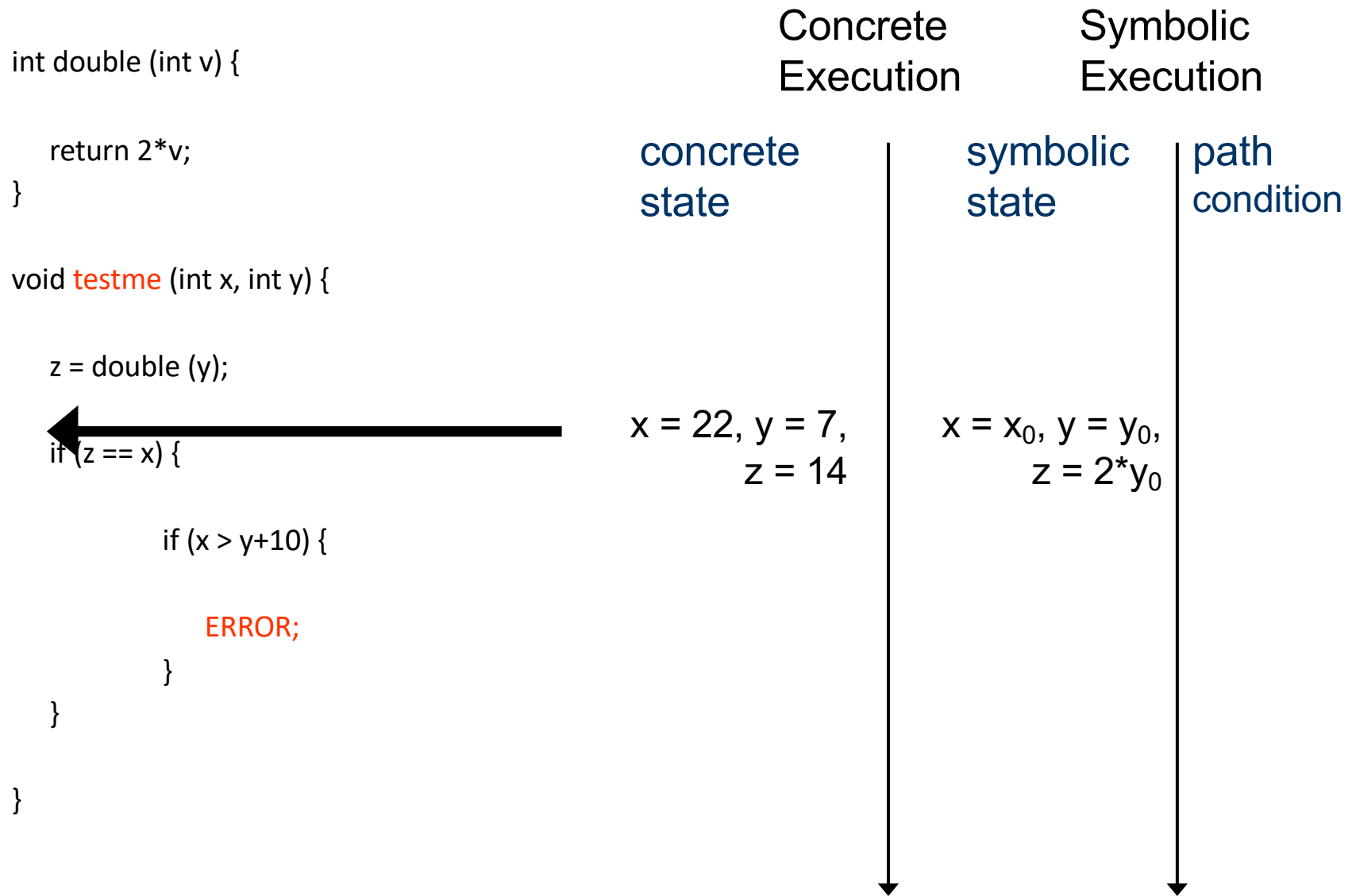
```
int double (int v) {  
  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void testme (int x, int y) {  
  
    z = double (y);  
  
    if (z == x) {  
  
        if (x > y+10) {  
  
            ERROR;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

- Random Test Driver:
 - ▣ random values for x and y
- Probability of reaching **ERROR** is extremely low

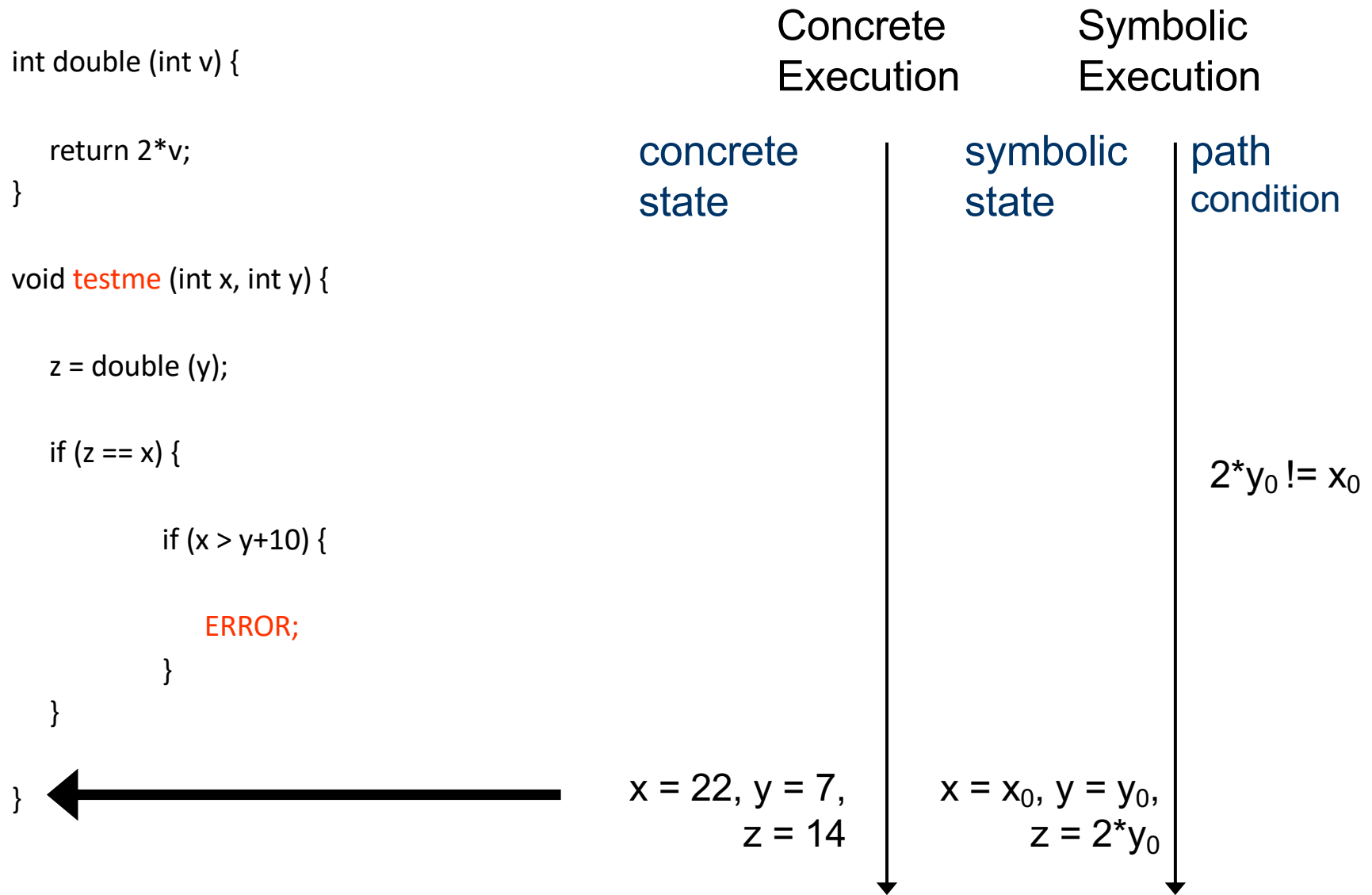
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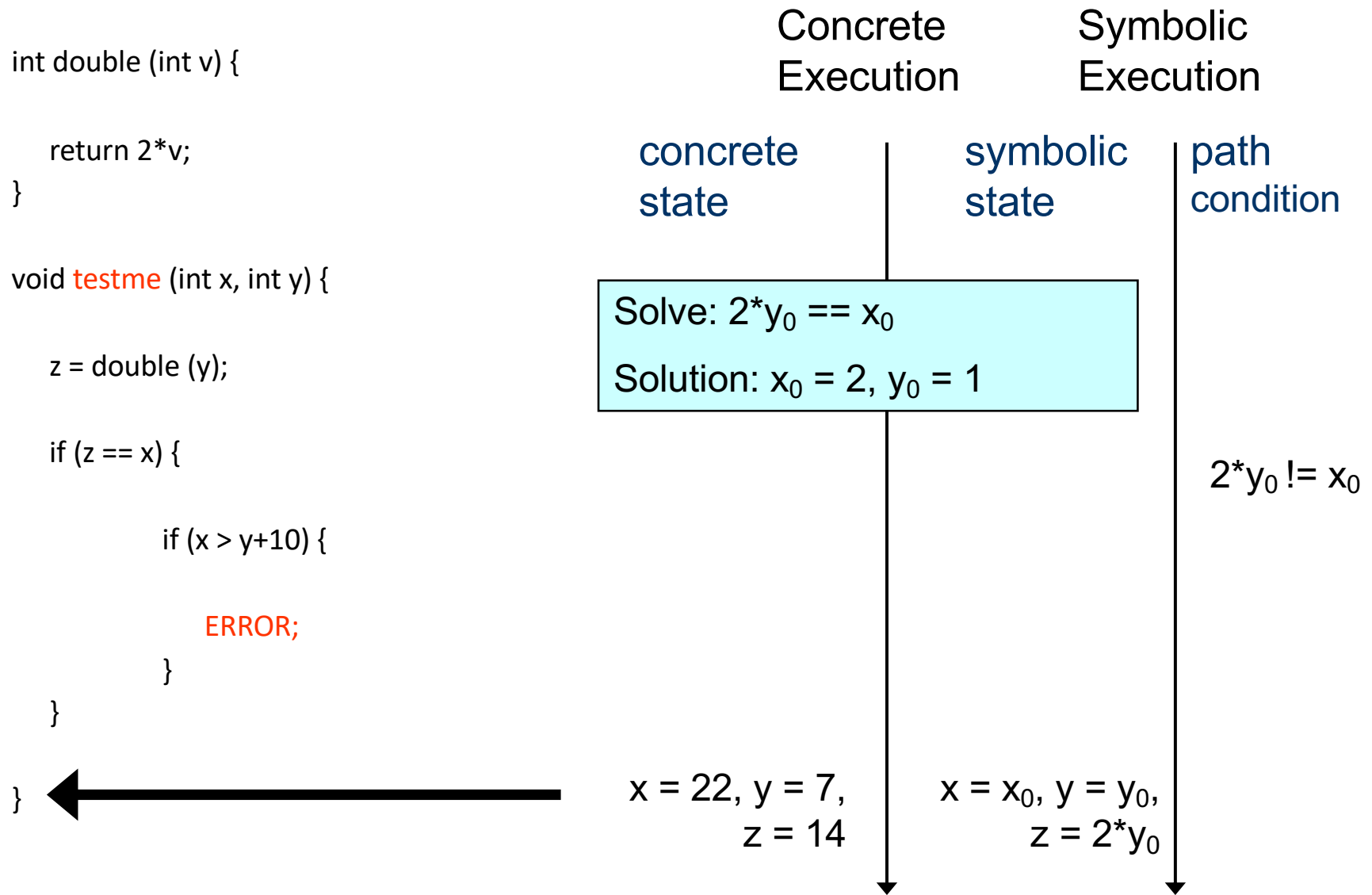
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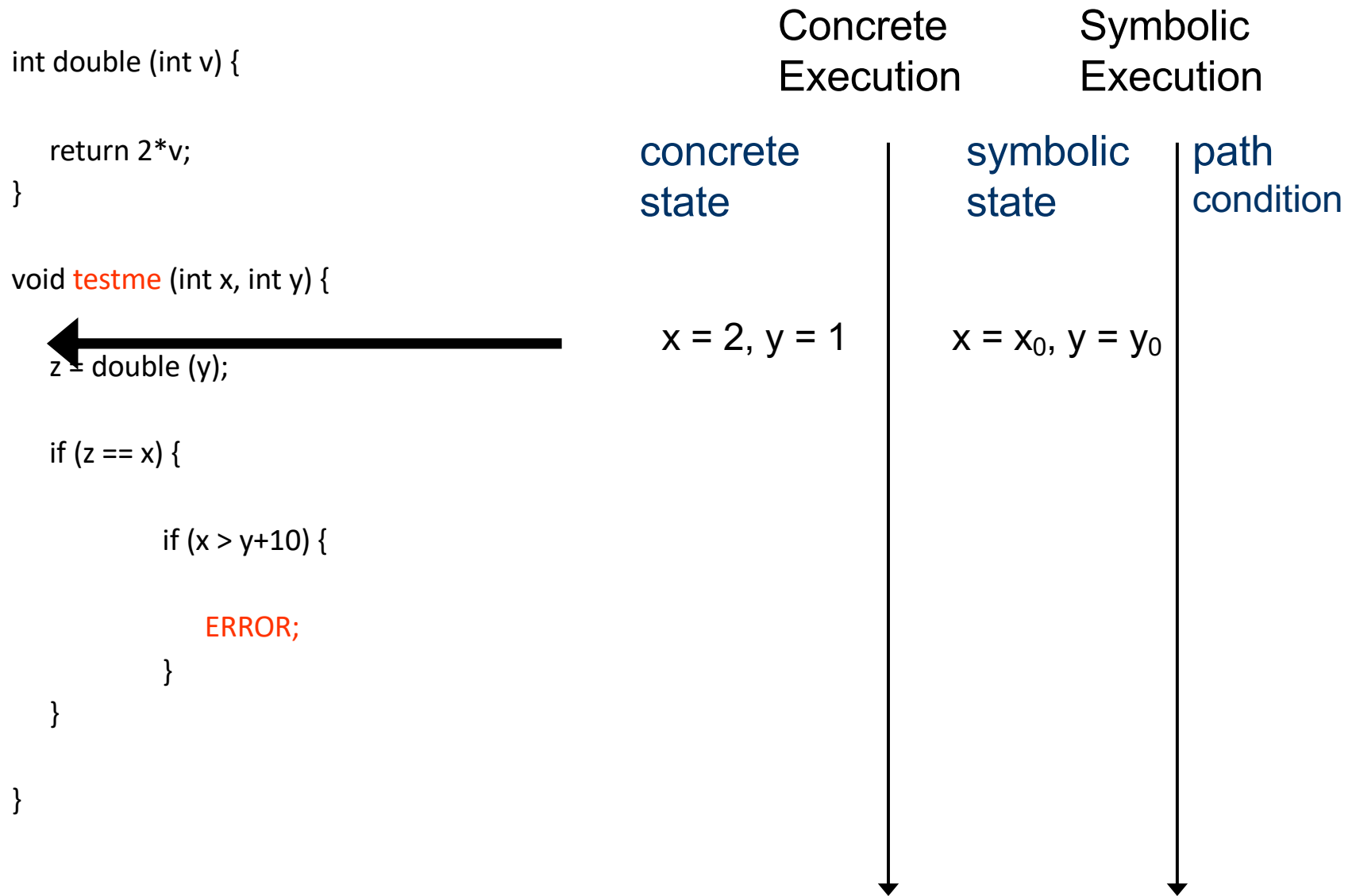
Concolic Testing Approach



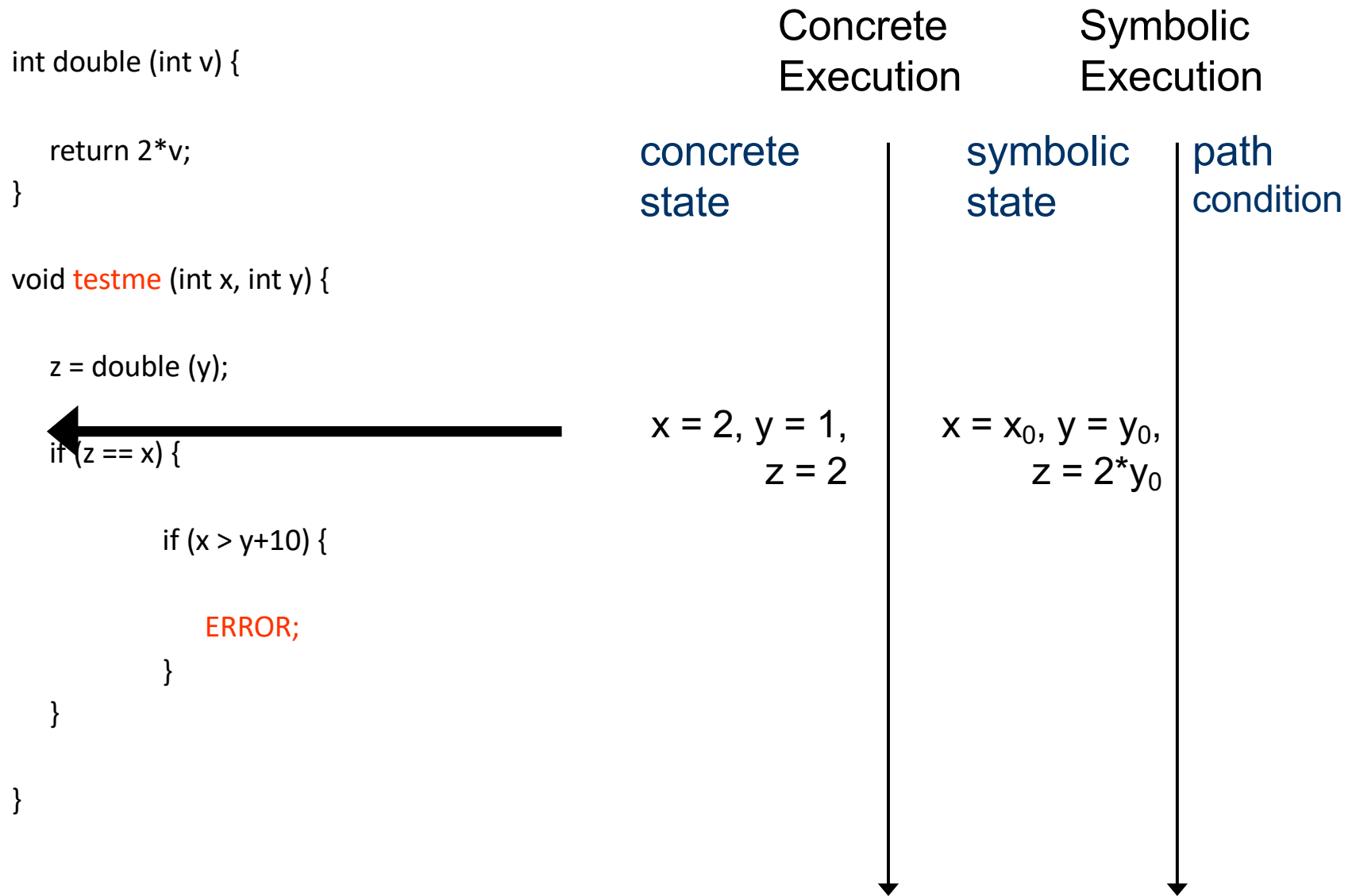
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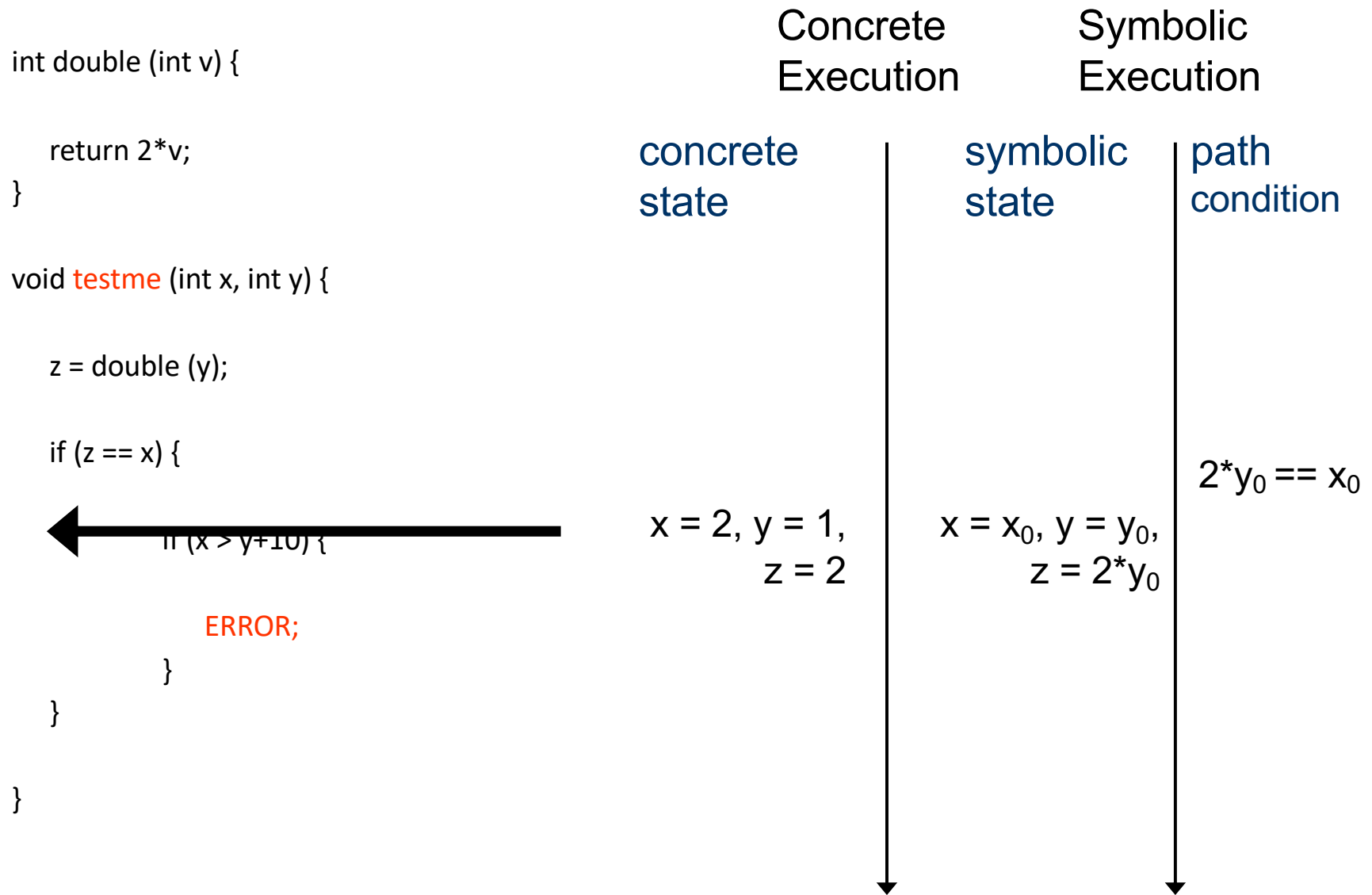
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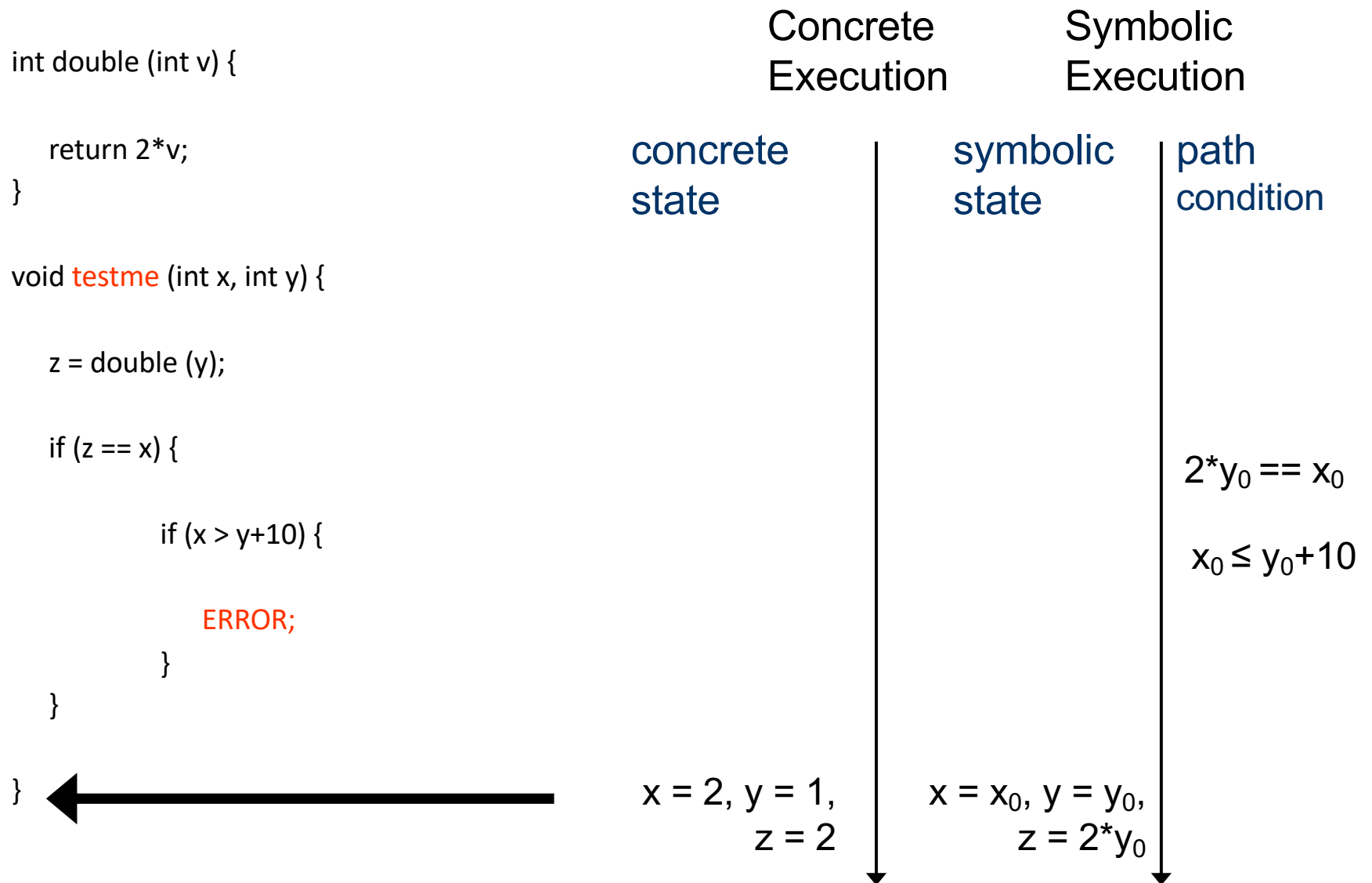
Concolic Testing Approach



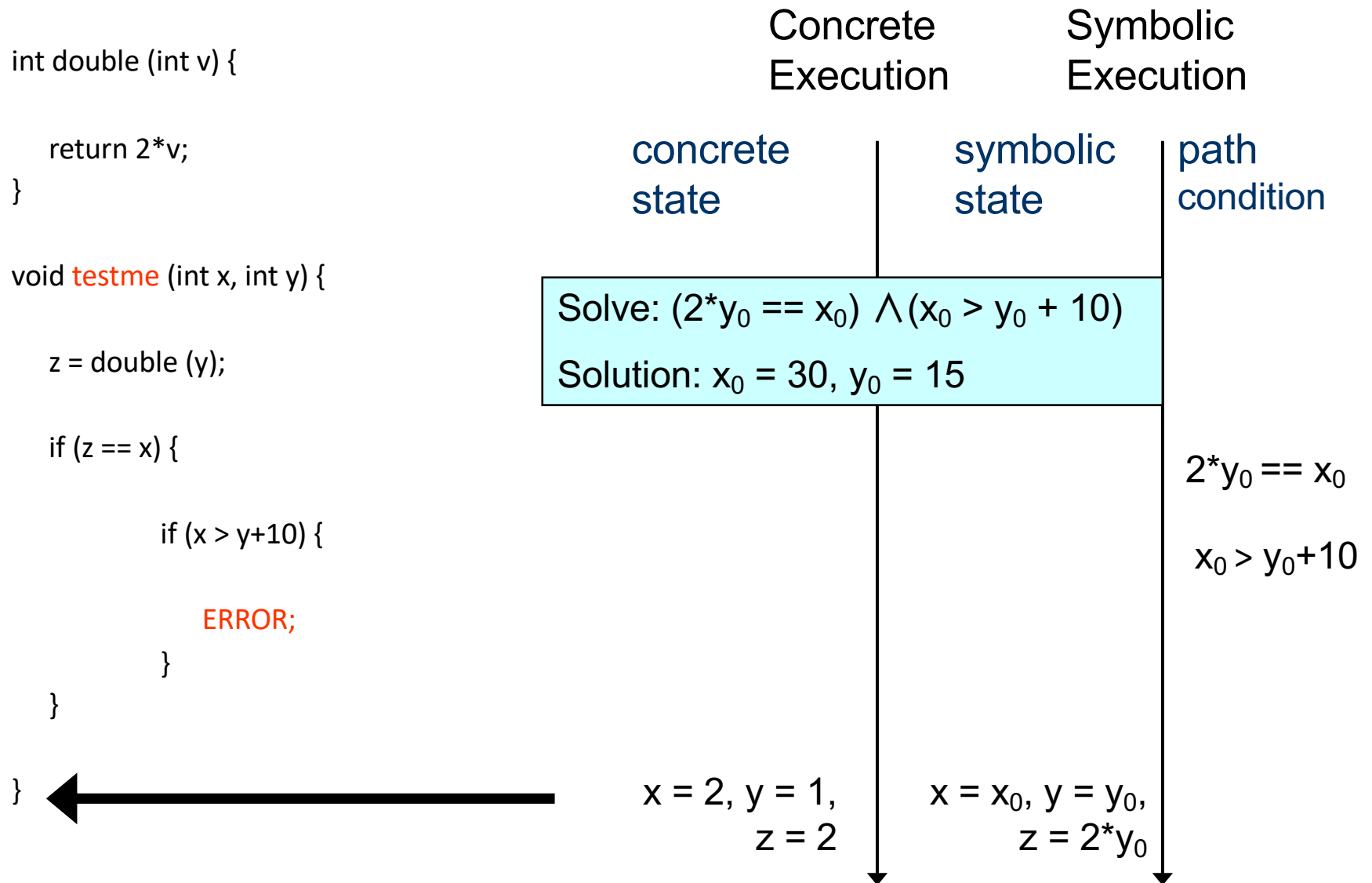
Concolic Testing Approach



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Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

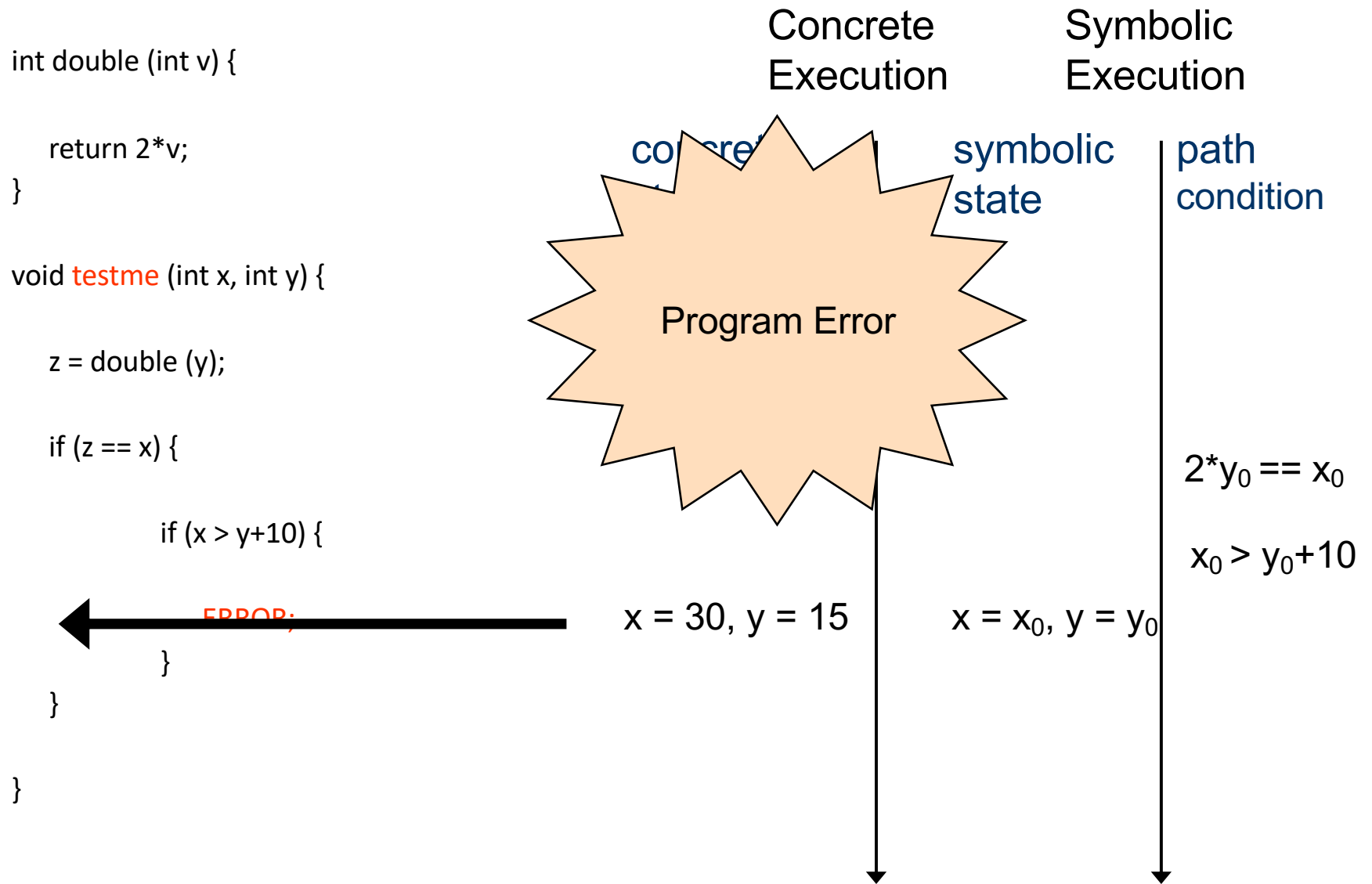
concrete
state

symbolic
state

path
condition

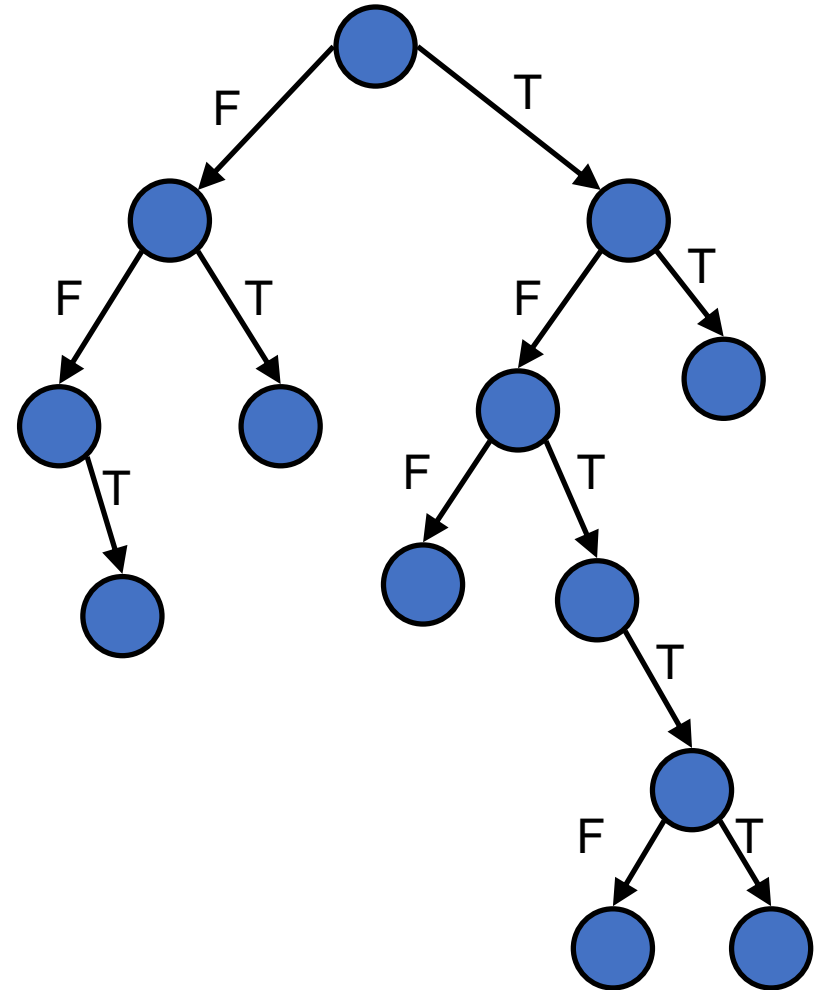
$$x = 30, y = 15$$
$$x = x_0, y = y_0$$

Concolic Testing Approach



Explicit Path (not State) Model Checking

- Traverse all execution paths one by one to detect errors
 - ❑ assertion violations
 - ❑ program crash
 - ❑ uncaught exceptions
- combine with address sanitizer to discover memory errors



Explicit Path (not State) Model Checking

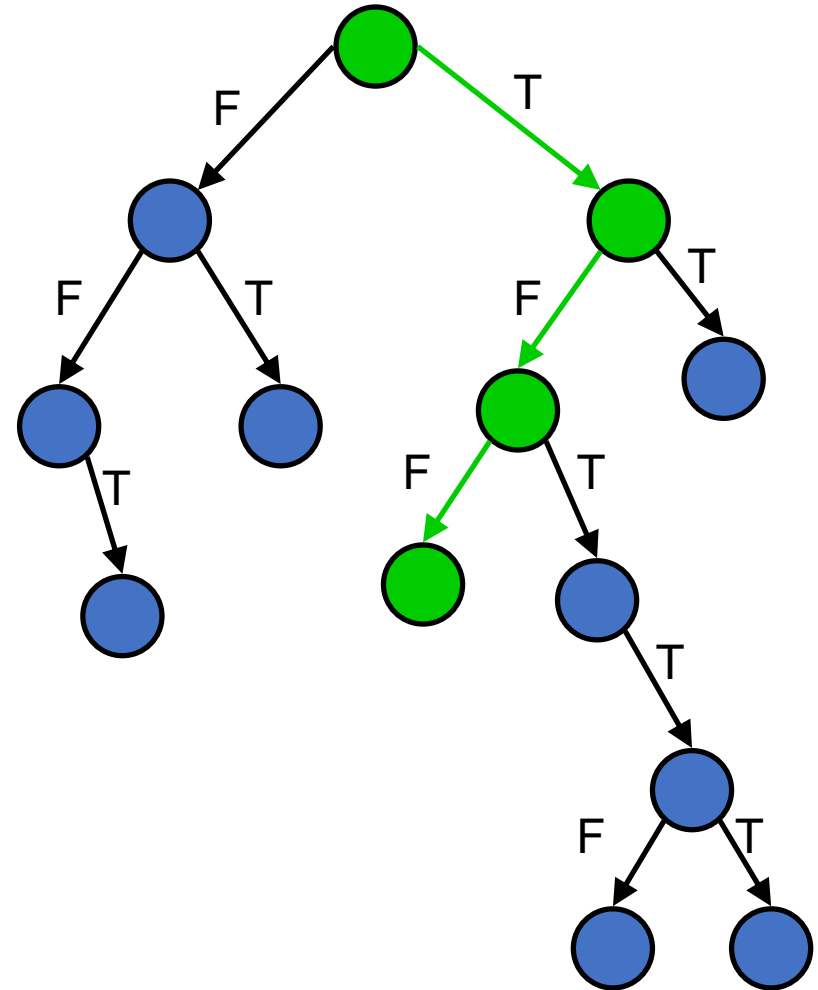
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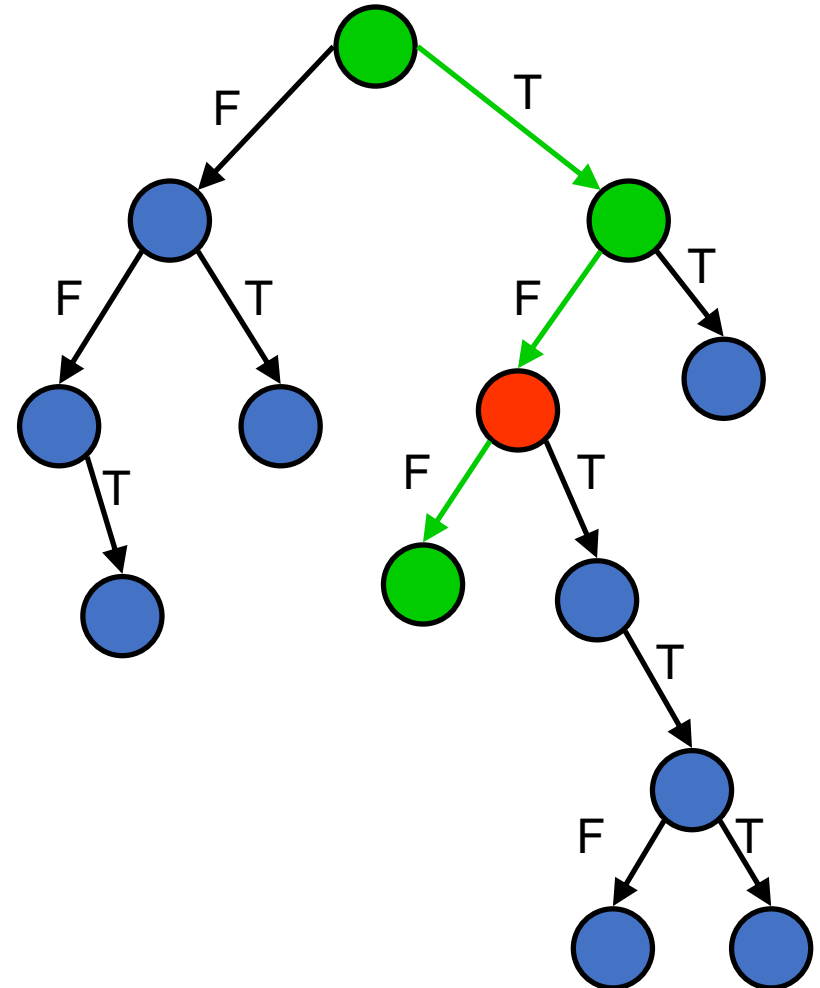
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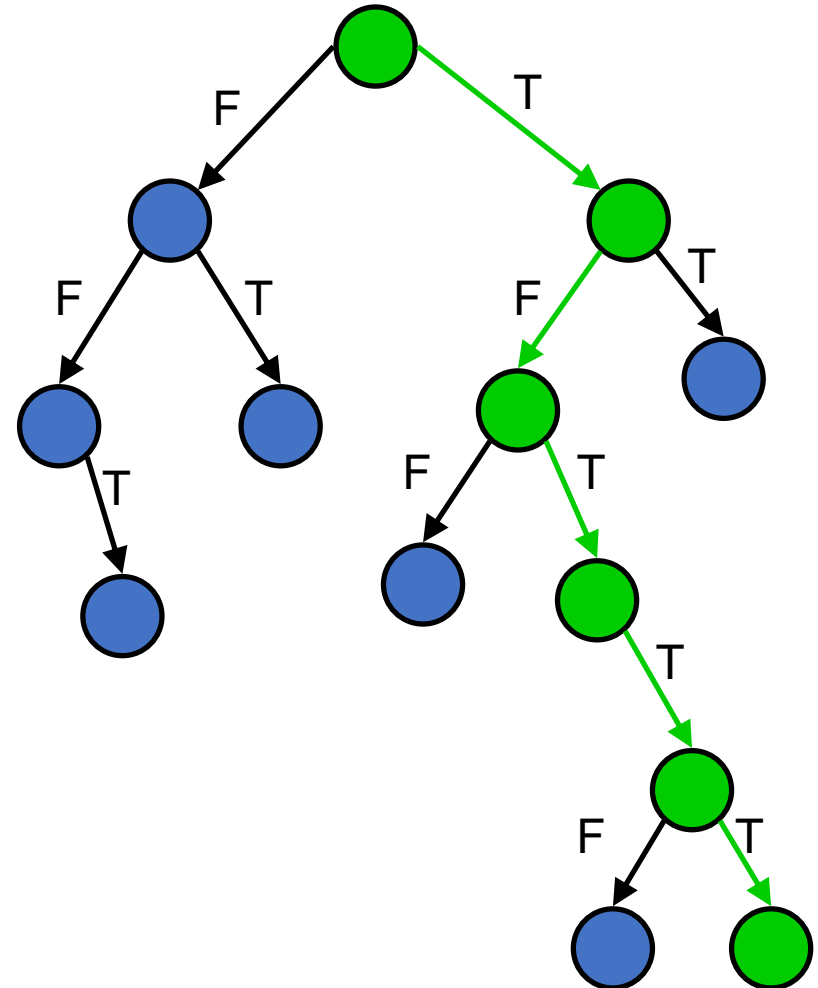


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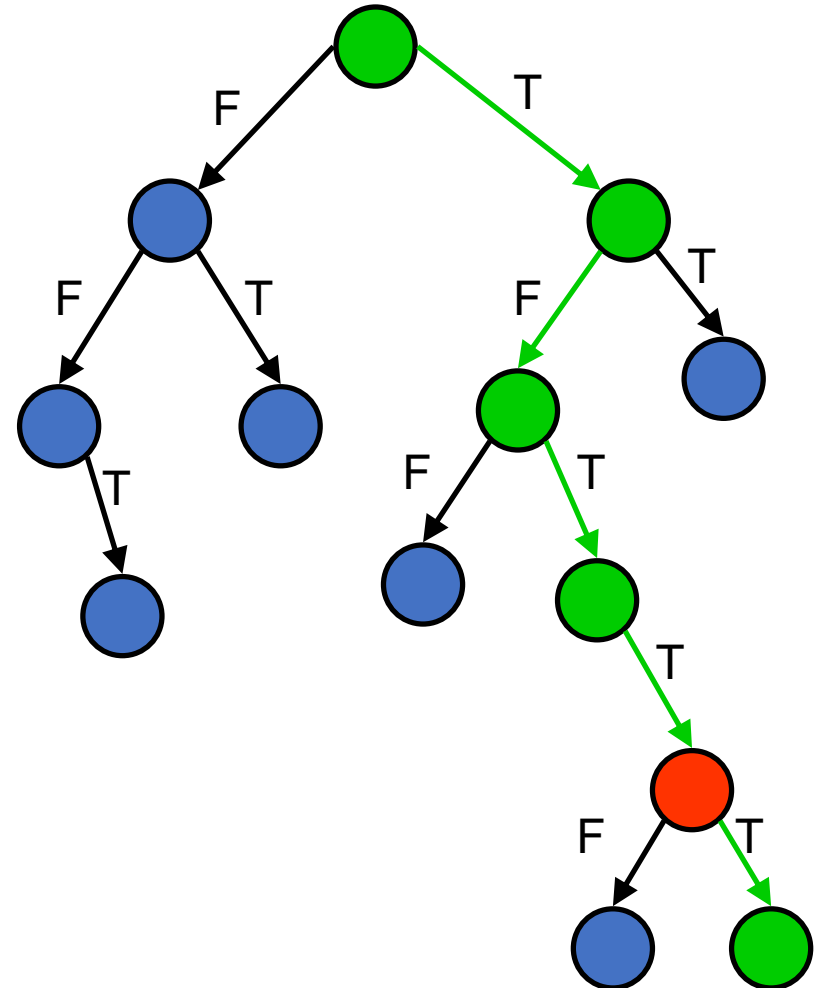
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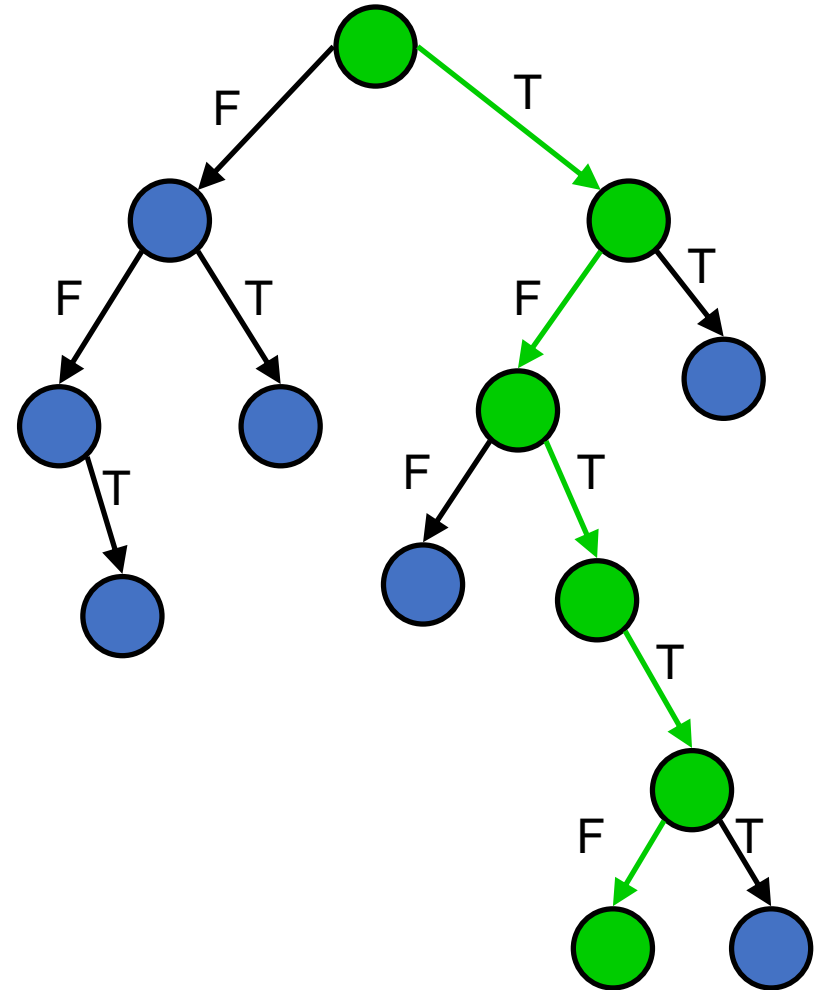
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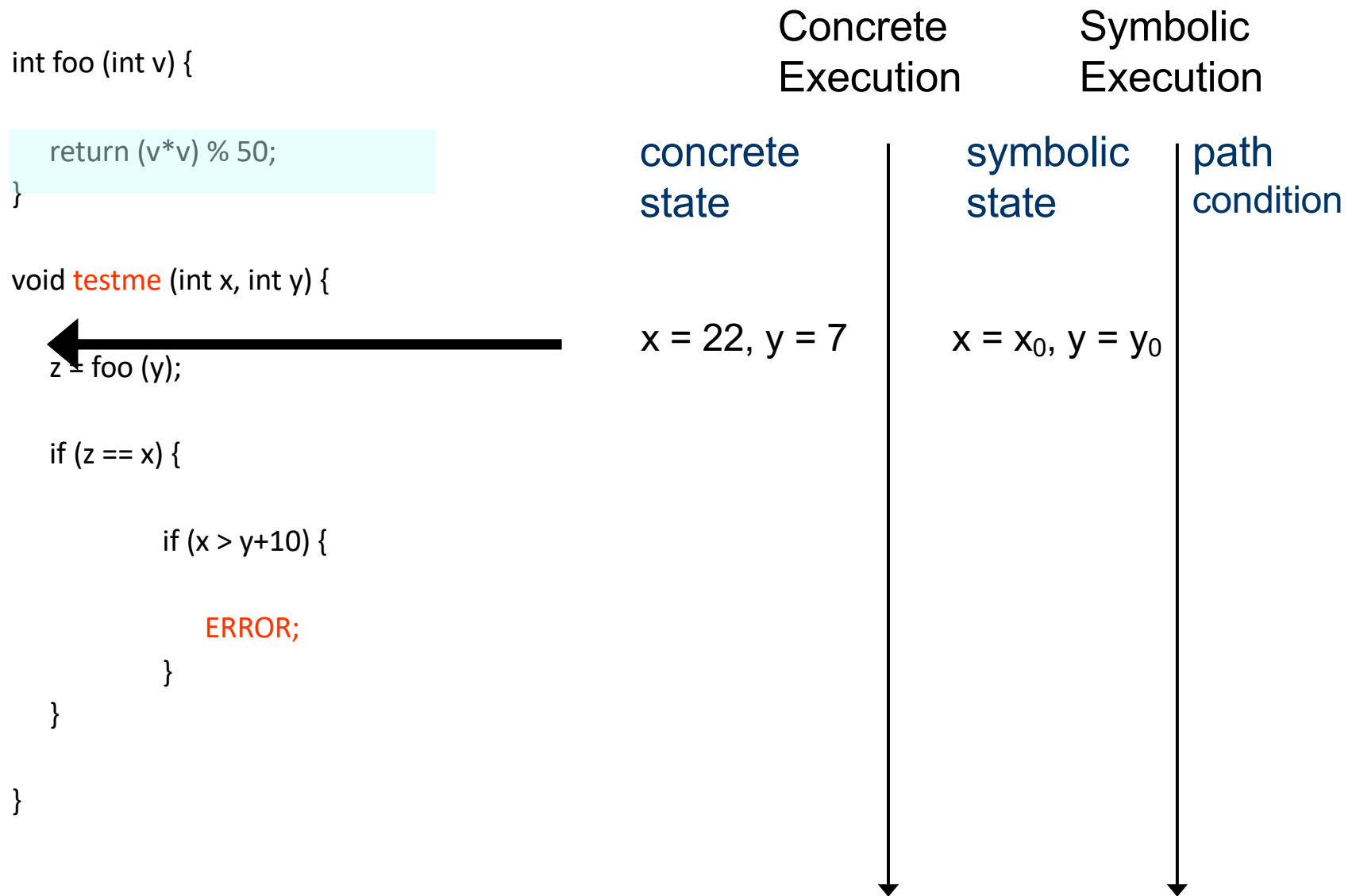
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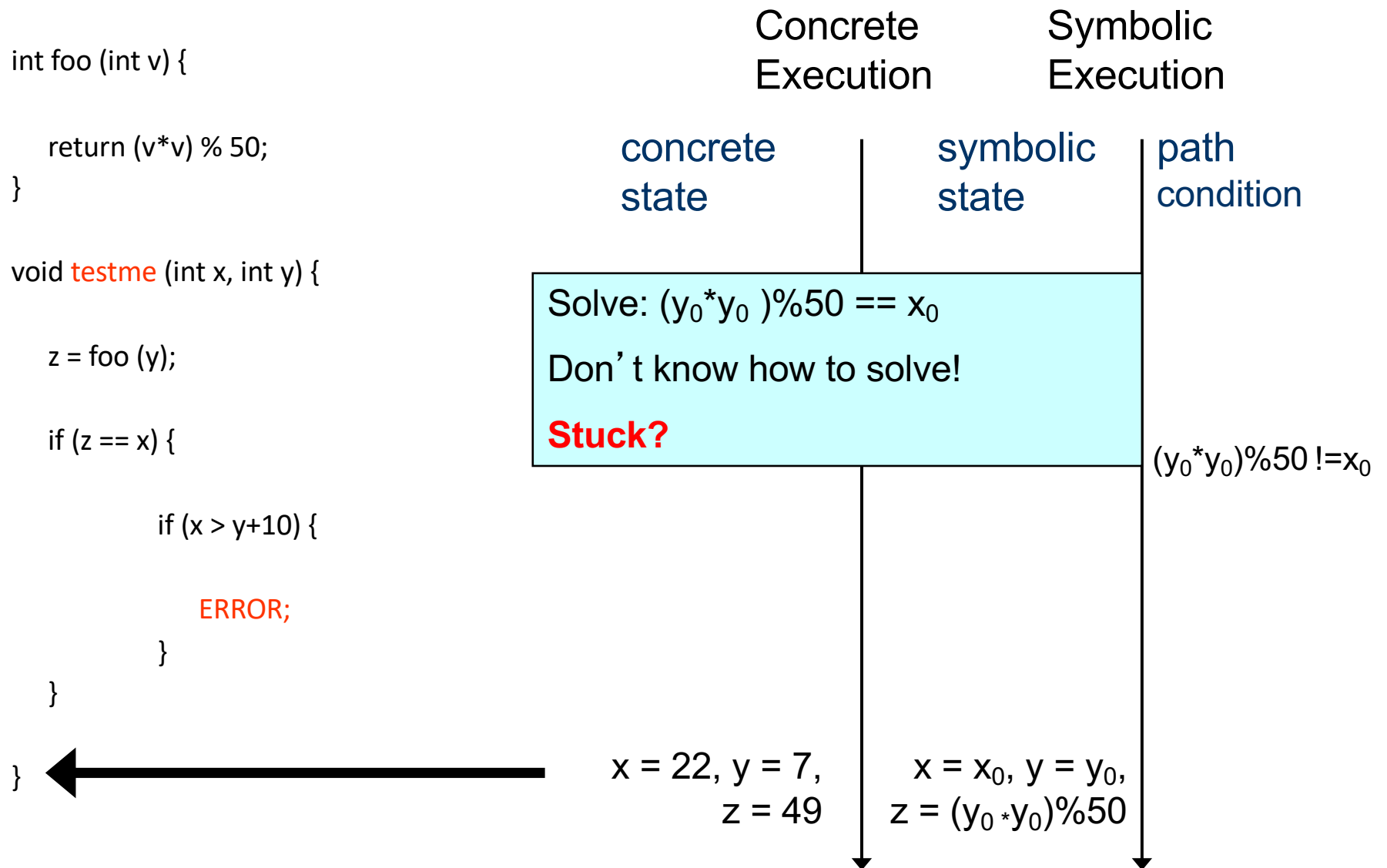
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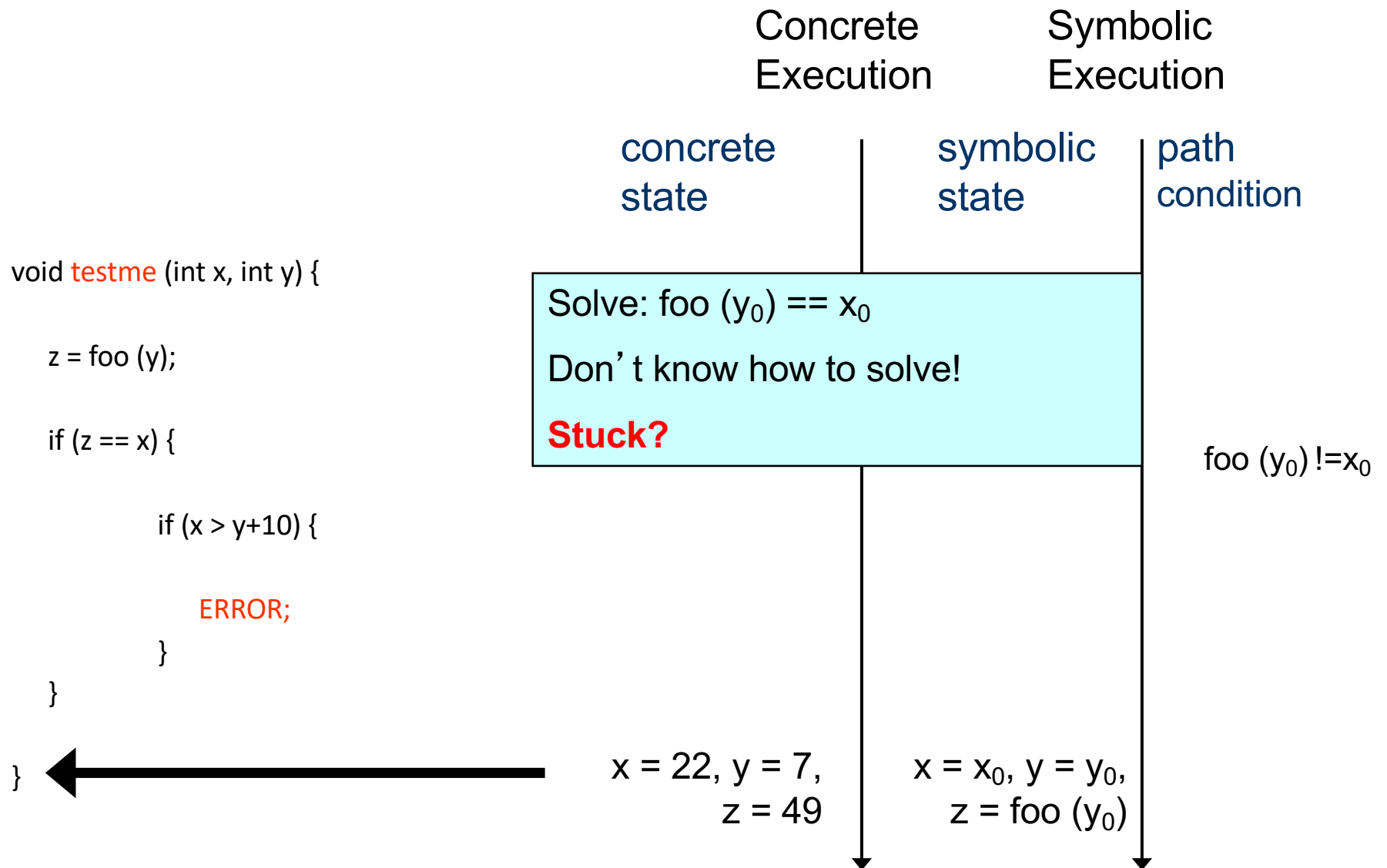
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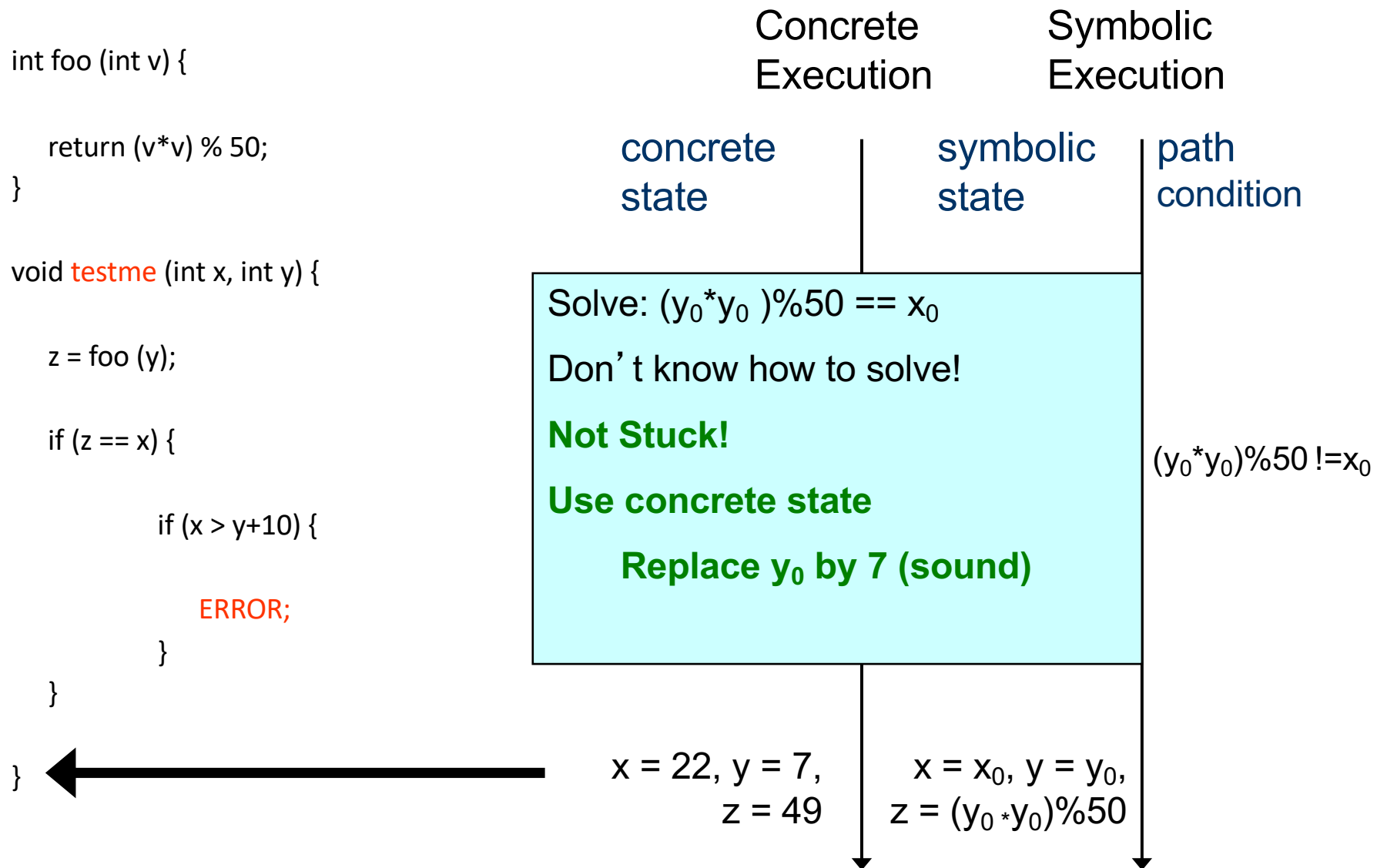
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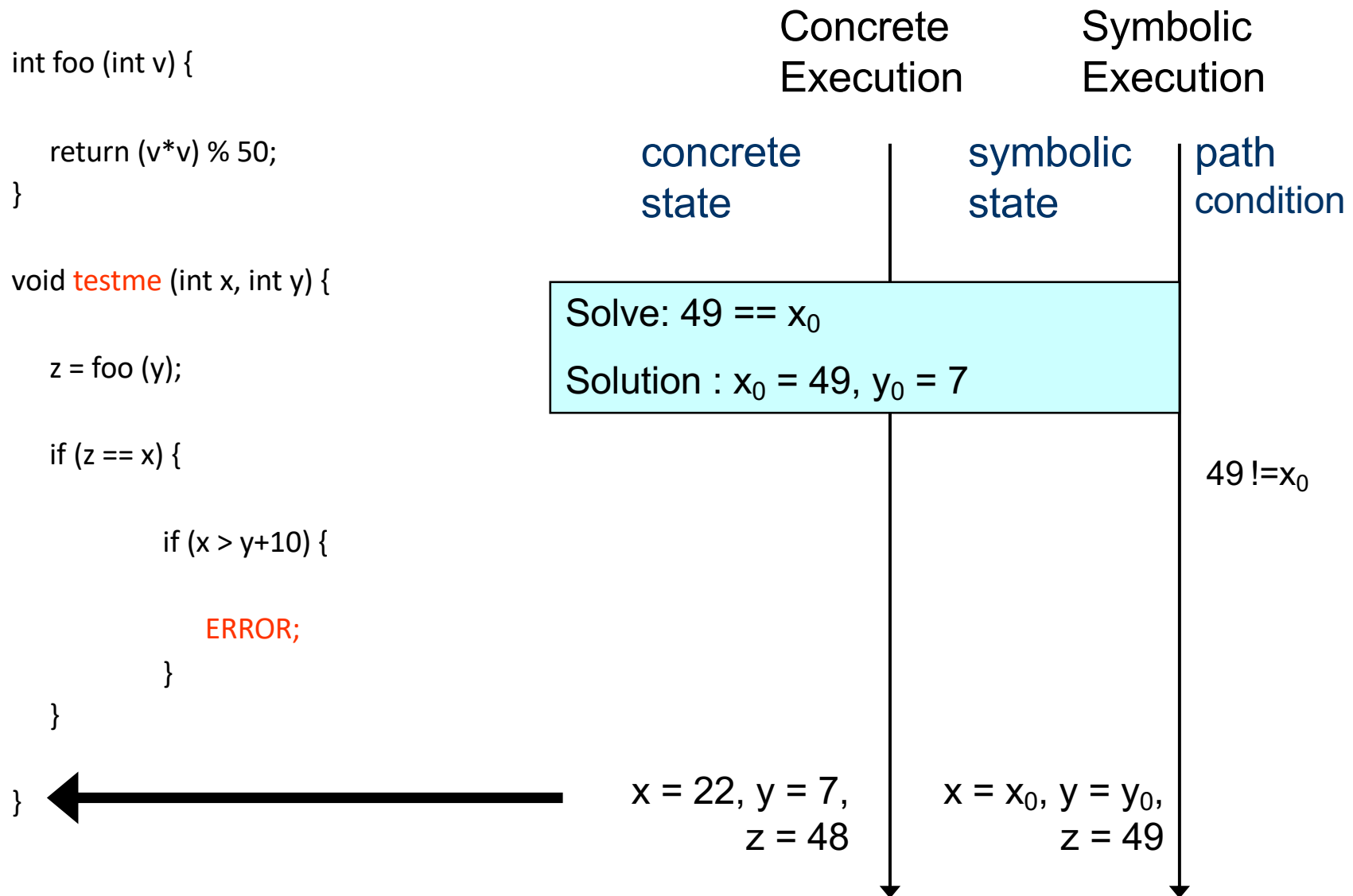
Novelty : Simultaneous Concrete and Symbolic Execution



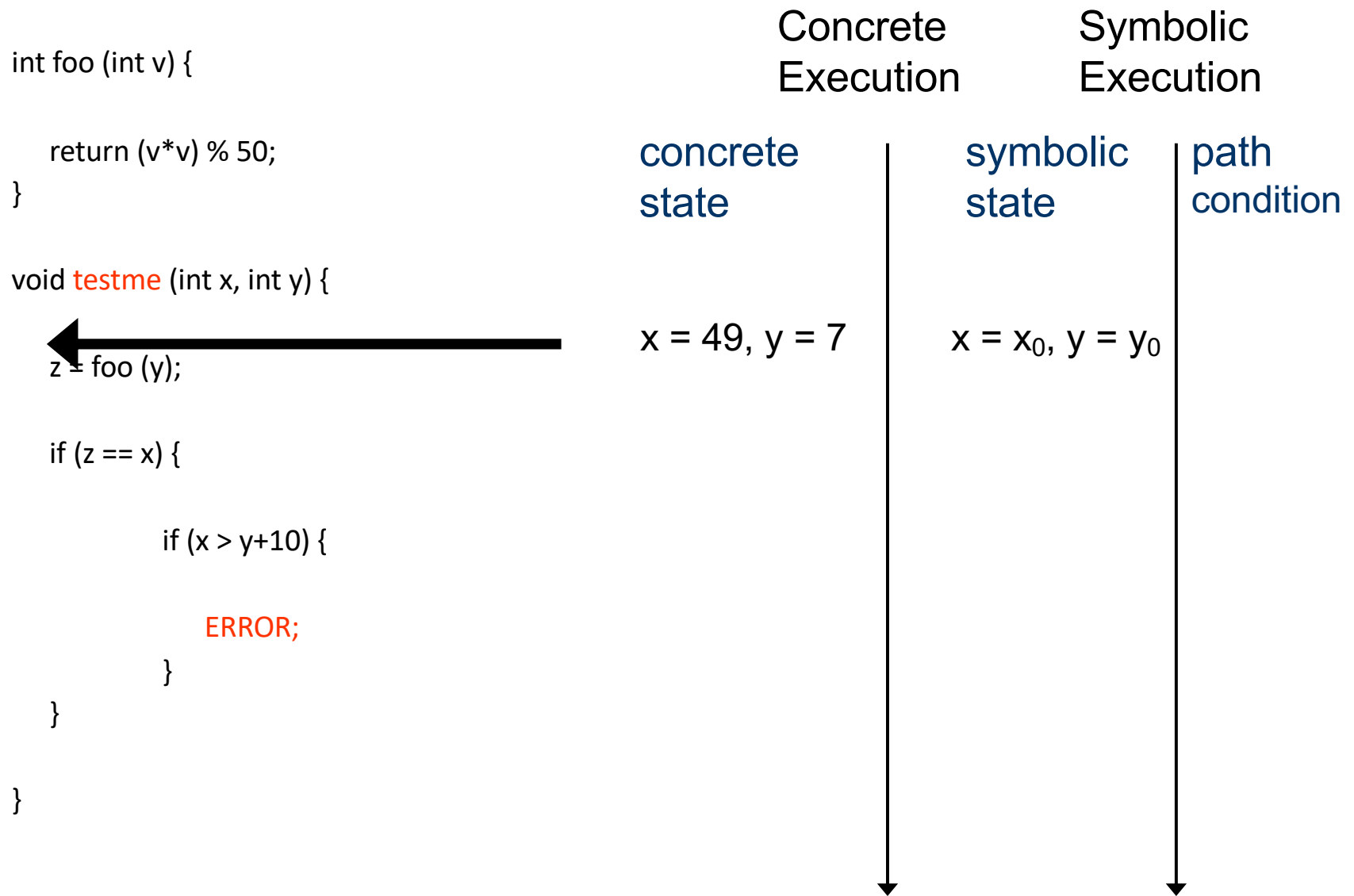
Novelty : Simultaneous Concrete and Symbolic Execution



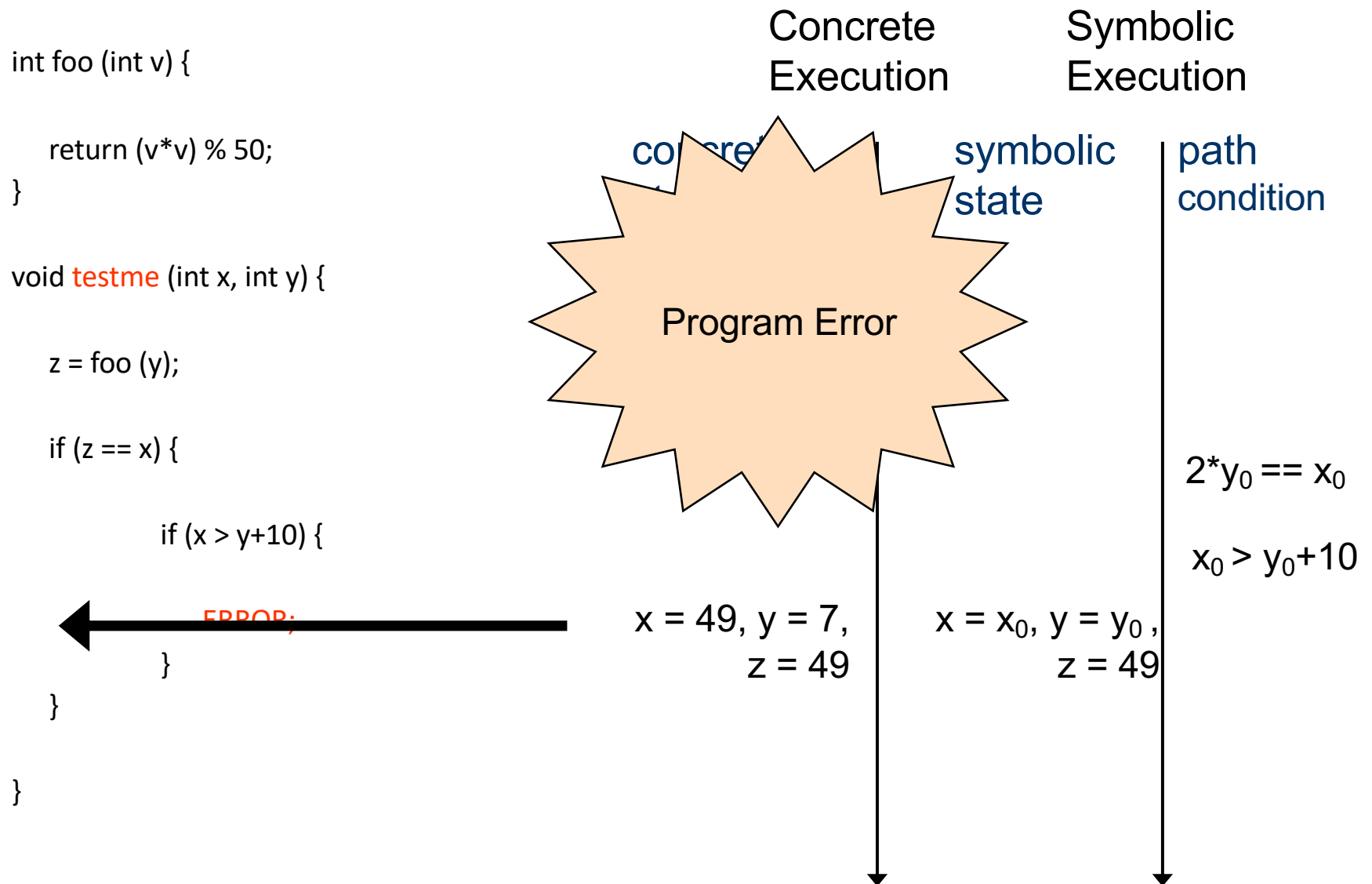
Novelty : Simultaneous Concrete and Symbolic Execution



Novelty : Simultaneous Concrete and Symbolic Execution

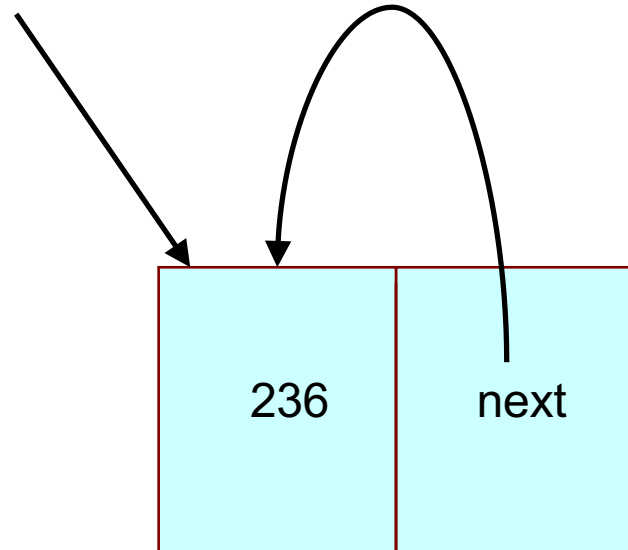


Novelty : Simultaneous Concrete and Symbolic Execution



Summary: Pointers and Data-Structures

Logical Input Map to
symbolically represent
Memory Graph pointed by an
input Pointer



$\{0 \rightarrow 1, 1 \rightarrow 236, 2 \rightarrow 1\}$

■ Pointer Constraints

- ☐ $p \neq \text{NULL}$
- ☐ $p = \text{NULL}$
- ☐ $p \neq q$
- ☐ $p = q$

■ Solving Pointer Constraints

- ☐ Construct equivalence class $[p]$ for each pointer input p
- ☐ $p \neq \text{NULL}$
 - Add a node and point $[p]$ to it
- ☐ $p = \text{NULL}$
 - Delete node pointed by $[p]$
- ☐ $p = q$
 - Make $[p]$ and $[q]$ point to same node
- ☐ $p \neq q$
 - Add a node and point $[p]$ or $[q]$ to it

Concolic Testing: Finding Security and Safety Bugs

Divide by 0 Error

`x = 3 / i;`

Buffer Overflow

`a[i] = 4;`

Concolic Testing: Finding Security and Safety Bugs

Key: Add Checks Automatically and
Perform Concolic Testing

Divide by 0 Error

```
if (i !=0)  
    x = 3 / i;  
else  
    ERROR;
```

Buffer Overflow

```
if (0<=i && i < a.length)  
    a[i] = 4;  
else  
    ERROR;
```

Incremental Constraint Solving

- Observation: one constraint is negated at each execution
 - $C1 \wedge C2 \wedge \dots \wedge Ck$ has a satisfying assignment
 - Need to solve $C1 \wedge C2 \wedge \dots \wedge \neg Ck$
 - Previous solution more or less similar to current solution
 - Eliminate non-dependent constraints

$$(x==1) \wedge (y>2) \wedge \neg (y==4)$$

to

$$(y>2) \wedge \neg (y==4)$$

- Incremental Solving
 - 100 -1000 times faster than a naïve solver

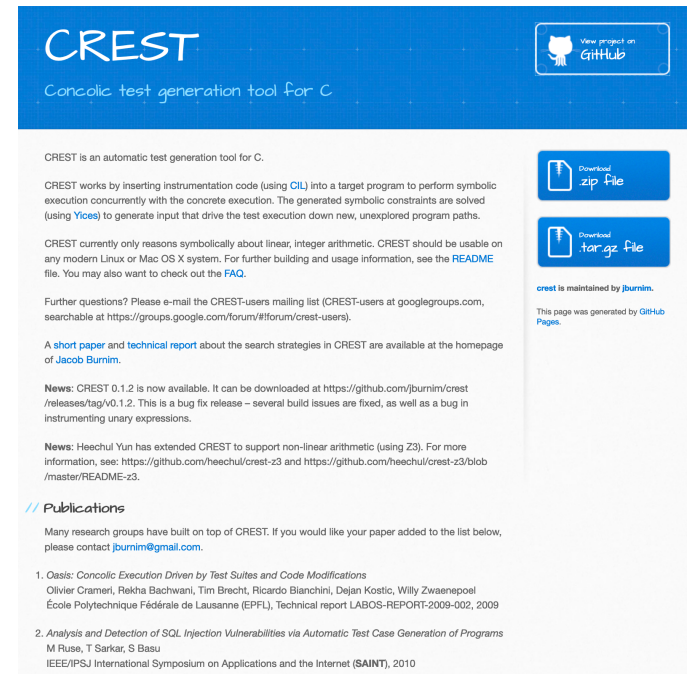
Underlying Random Testing Helps

```
1 foobar(int x, int y){  
2   if (x*x*x > 0){  
3     if (x>0 && y==10){  
4       ERROR;  
5     }  
6   } else {  
7     if (x>0 && y==20){  
8       ERROR;  
9     }  
10  }  
11 }
```

- static analysis based model-checkers would consider **both** branches
 - ☐ both ERROR statements are reachable
 - ☐ false alarm
- Symbolic execution
 - ☐ gets stuck at line number 2
 - ☐ or warn that both ERRORS are reachable
- CUTE finds the only error

DART, CUTE, jCUTE, CREST, Jalangi, CATG

- DART for C
- CUTE for C and jCUTE for Java
 - 5000+ downloads (around 2010)
 - used in both academia and industry
- CREST
 - extensible open-source tool for C
- Jalangi for JavaScript Concolic Testing
- CATG for Concolic Testing of Java bytecode
 - <https://github.com/ksen007/janala2>



Concolic Testing in Practice

- Led to the development of several industrial and academic automated testing and security tools
 - Projects at Intel, Google, MathWorks, NTT, Salesforce
 - PEX, SAGE, and YOGI at Microsoft
 - Apollo at IBM, and Conbol and Jalangi at Samsung
 - BitBlaze, jFuzz, Oasis, and SmartFuzz in academia



The screenshot shows the Intel Developer Zone website. The main article is titled "Finding BIOS Vulnerabilities with Symbolic Execution and Virtual Platforms" by Engblom, Jakob, published on June 6, 2017, and updated on June 7, 2019. The article is part of the "MEET THE EXPERTS" documentation series. The contents list includes: Target: System Management Mode, Applying Excite to SMM, Symbolic Analysis and Test Generation, How Excite Uses Simics Virtual Platforms, Fuzzing, Code Coverage Results, How Issues Get Reported, Optimizing the Execution Time with Parallel Testing, Try It, and Related Content. The article text describes fuzzing as a common technique used by hackers to find vulnerabilities, where random inputs are sent to expose mistakes in code. However, with the source code and information about the software under attack, crashes and bugs can be mapped back for easier fixing. Intel's Excite project uses a combination of symbolic execution, fuzzing, and concrete testing to find vulnerabilities in sensitive code. Developers can use Simics* virtual platforms to adopt best practices from the project to combine symbolic and concrete techniques to achieve better performance and effectiveness than using either technique alone. The image at the bottom of the article shows a stylized blue and white graphic of a tennis court with a ball and a racket.

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Concolic Execution and Code Coverage with Triton



Alberto Garcia Illera [Follow](#)
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Concolic Testing in Practice

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 - Projects at Intel, Google, MathWorks, NTT, Salesforce
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 - BitBlaze, jFuzz, Oasis, and SmartFuzz in academia



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Generate unit tests for your code with IntelliTest

10/04/2015 • 5 minutes to read • Contributors all

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[Explore: Use IntelliTest to explore your code and generate unit tests](#)

[Persist: Save the unit tests as a regression suite](#)

[Assist: Use IntelliTest to focus code exploration](#)

[Specify: Use IntelliTest to validate correctness properties that you specify in code](#)
[Q & A](#)

IntelliTest explores your .NET code to generate test data and a suite of unit tests. For every statement in the code, a test input is generated that will execute that statement. A case analysis is performed for every conditional



Research

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QSYM: A Practical Concolic Execution Engine Tailored for Hybrid Fuzzing

Insu Yun, [Sangho Lee](#), Meng Xu, Yeongjin Jang, Taesoo Kim

27th USENIX Security Symposium (Security 2018) | August 2018

Distinguished Paper Award Winner

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Many Applications



Many Applications

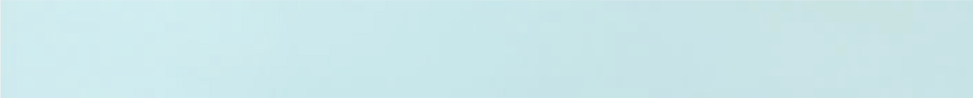
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Microsoft launches “fuzzing-as-a-service” to help developers find security bugs

Project Springfield, Microsoft's "million-dollar bug detector" now available in cloud.

SEAN GALLAGHER - 9/27/2016, 6:21 PM



Performing Concolic Execution on Cryptographic Primitives

POST APRIL 1, 2019 1 COMMENT

Alan Cao

For my winternship and springternship at Trail of Bits, I researched novel techniques for symbolic execution on cryptographic protocols. I analyzed various implementation-level bugs in cryptographic libraries, and built a prototype **Manticore**-based concolic unit testing tool, Sandshrew, that analyzed C cryptographic primitives under a symbolic and concrete environment.

Many Applications

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Con2colic testing

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COMPI: Concolic Testing for MPI Applications

Publisher: IEEE

5 Author(s) [Hongbo Li](#) ; [Sihuan Li](#) ; [Zachary Benavides](#) ; [Zizhong Chen](#) ; [Rajiv Gupta](#) [View All Authors](#)

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DeepConcolic (Concolic Testing for Deep Neural Networks)



DeepConcolic
Safety for AI

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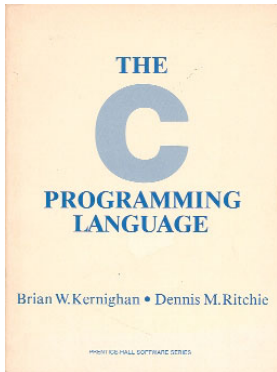
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Many Languages

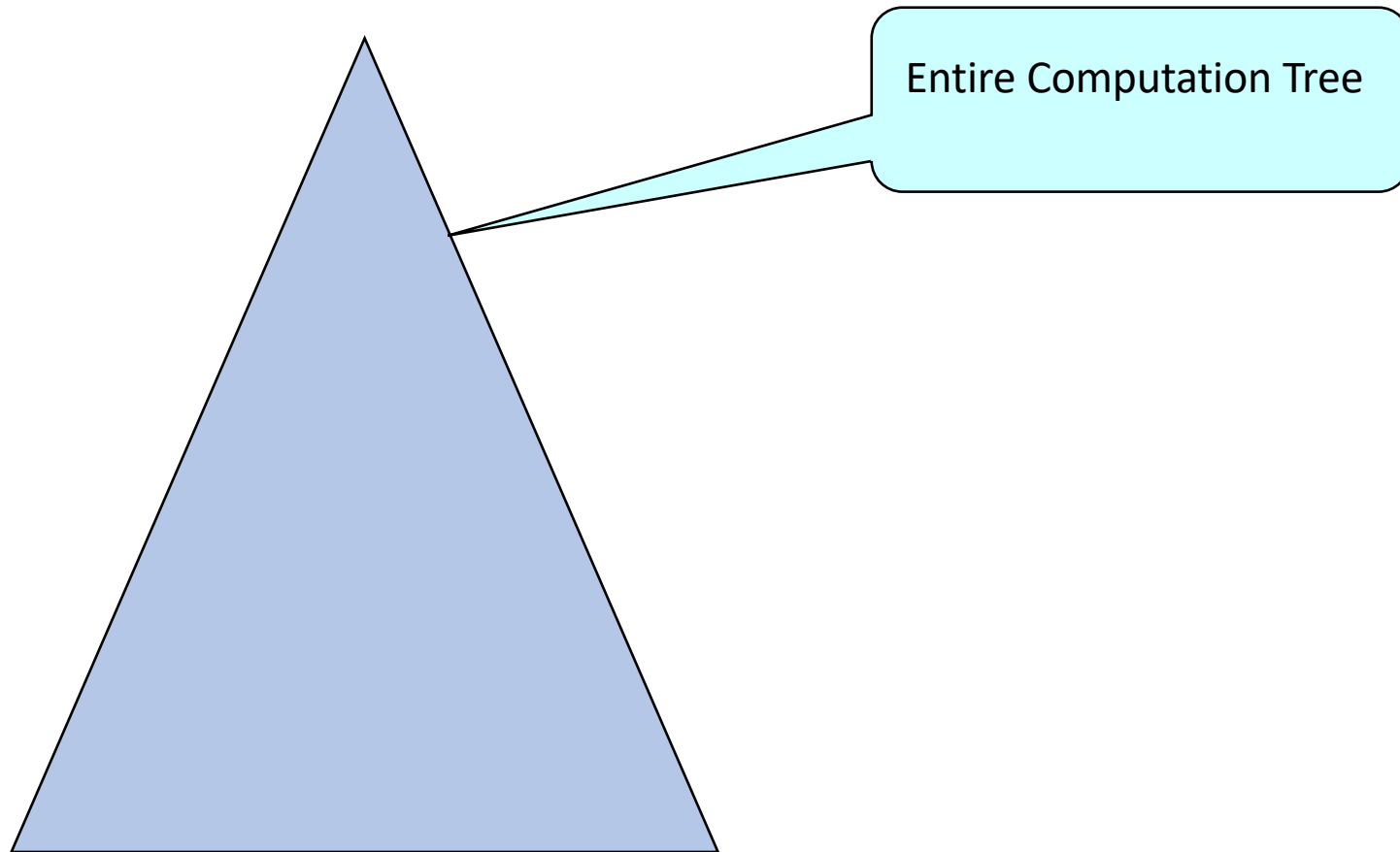


JavaScript

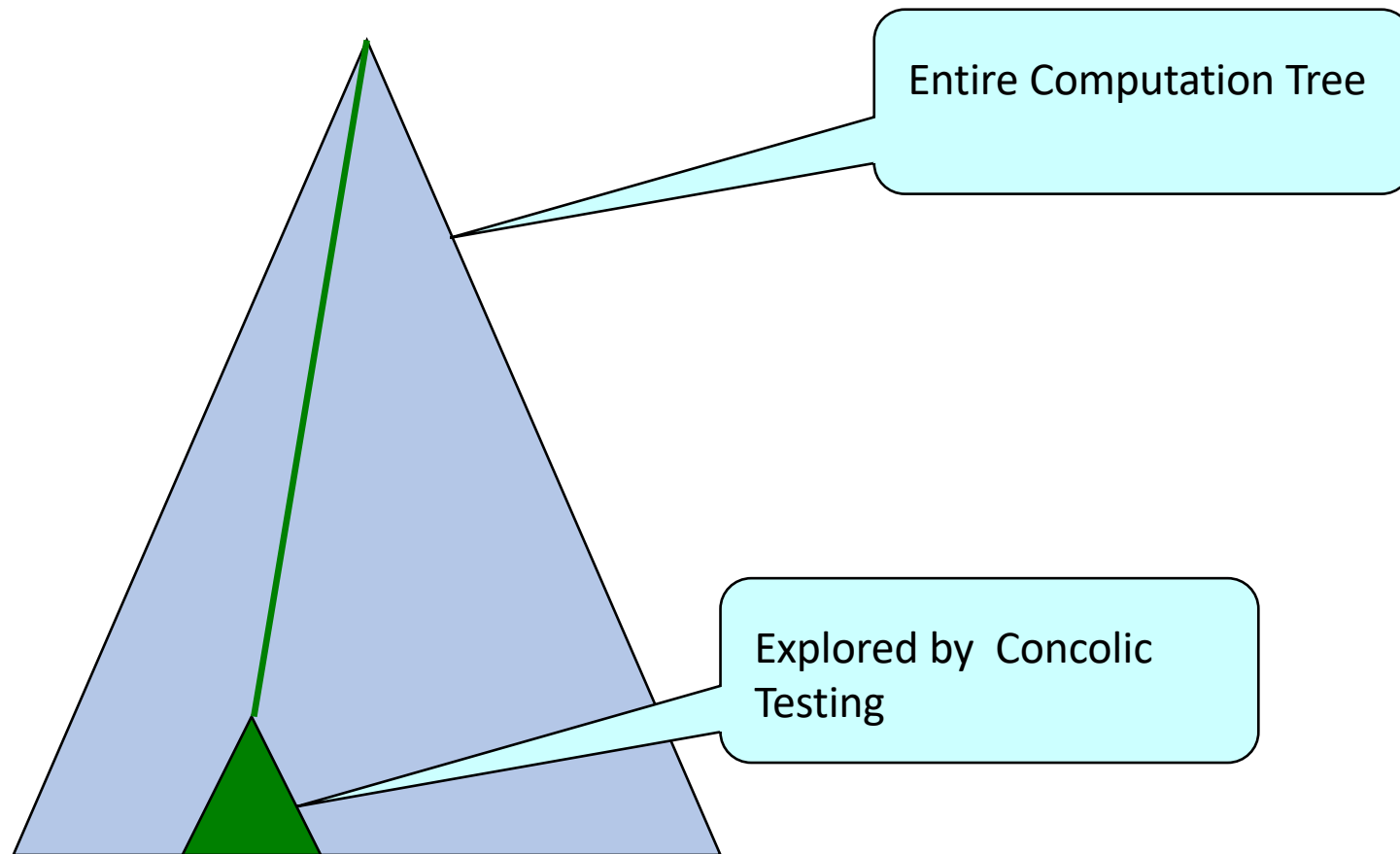


Java bytecode

Concolic Testing: Path-explosion Problem



Concolic Testing: Path-explosion Problem



Scaling Concolic Testing

- Control-flow Directed Search (CREST)
- Combining fuzzing and concolic testing (Hybrid Concolic Testing, Driller, Mayhem)
- Function Summaries (SMART, Veritesting)
- Loop Summaries (Proteus, LESE)
- State Merging using Value Summaries (MultiSE)
- Interpolation (Tracer)
- Abstract Subsumption Checking
- Pruning redundant paths (RWSet)
- Parallel techniques (Siddiqui & Khurshid, and Staats & Pasareanu)
- Incremental techniques (Person et al.)
- ...

Lessons Learned

- Focused on an important real-world problem
- Did not try to invent from the beginning
 - Tried existing approaches to solve a real problem
 - Observed limitations
 - Got insights → led to effective solutions
 - Identified novel contributions (and wrote papers)

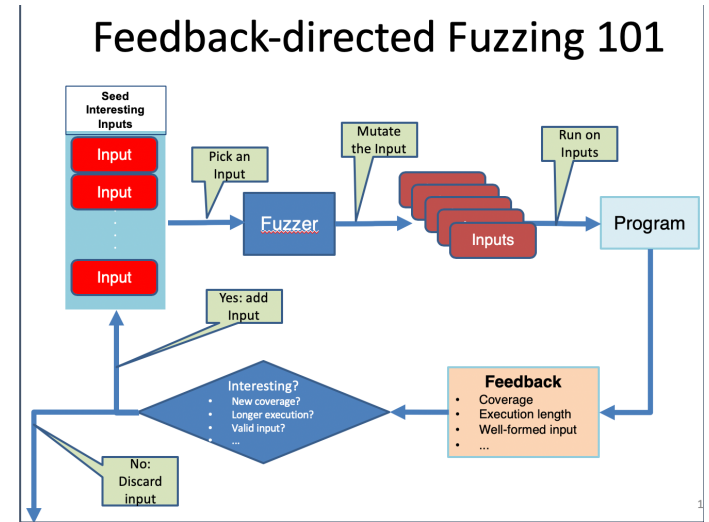
Things We Should Have Done Differently

- If there is a big idea for a practical problem
 - Build a practical system that users can use
 - Promote the area of research
 - Your competitors are your real-friends
 - Do not hesitate to use competing techniques
 - If it helps to solve the problem
 - Take feedback seriously
 - From actual users
 - And reviewers

What we do now

- We target real-world problems
- We target real software in the more popular languages
 - rather than assuming a nice clean slate for research
 - leads us to see a lot of problems
- We build prototypes before building a large system
- We release our tools as open-source software
 - so that the tools are usable by the broader community
- We release our benchmarks

Smart Fuzzing



Intention

Correctness FairFuzz
Performance Bugs PerfFuzz
Custom testing Goals FuzzFactory
Semantic Fuzzing (Zest)
Constraint Fuzzing QuickSampler SMTSampler (Dutra)



Algorithm

Symbolic Execution/ Concolic Testing CUTE
Genetic algorithm AFL
Reinforcement Learning RLCheck
Neural Network ???
Bayesian Learning ???



Implementation

Parallelization
LLVM, x86
Java Virtual Machine JQF, RLCheck
Python RLCheck
RTL using FPGA RFuzz (Laeufer)

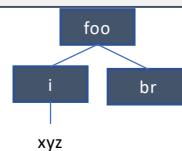
Zest: Semantic Fuzzing

Padhye, Lemieux, Sen, Papadakis, Le Traon

```
public XMLElement genXML(Random random) {  
    // Generate a random tag name  
    String name = random.nextString(MAX_TAG_LENGTH);  
    XMLElement node = new XMLElement(name);  
  
    // Generate a random number of children  
    int n = random.nextInt(MAX_CHILDREN);  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
        // Generate child nodes recursively  
        node.addChild(genXML(random));  
    }  
    // Maybe insert text inside element  
    if (random.nextBoolean()) {  
        node.addText(random.nextString(MAX_TEXT_LENGTH));  
    }  
    return node;  
}
```

- Developer writes a simple input generator as a program
- Generator restricts the space of inputs

Example generated:



<foo><i>xyz</i>
</foo>

Zest: New bugs discovered

- ✓ **Google Closure Compiler:** [#2842](#), [#2843](#), [#3220](#), [#3173](#)
- ✓ **OpenJDK:** [JDK-8190332](#), [JDK-8190511](#), [JDK-8190512](#), [JDK-8190997](#), [JDK-8191023](#), [JDK-8191076](#), [JDK-8191109](#), [JDK-8191174](#), [JDK-8191073](#), [JDK-8193444](#), [JDK-8193877](#), **[CVE-2018-3214](#)**
- ✓ **Apache Commons:** [LANG-1385](#), [COMPRESS-424](#), [COLLECTIONS-714](#), **[CVE-2018-11771](#)**
- ✓ **Apache Ant:** [#62655](#)
- ✓ **Apache Maven:** [#34](#), [#57](#)
- ✓ **Apache PDFBox:** [PDFBOX-4333](#), [PDFBOX-4338](#), [PDFBOX-4339](#), **[CVE-2018-8036](#)**
- ✓ **Apache Tika:** **[CVE-2018-8017](#)**, **[CVE-2018-12418](#)**
- ✓ **Apache BCEL:** [BCEL-303](#), [BCEL-307](#), [BCEL-308](#), [BCEL-309](#), [BCEL-310](#), [BCEL-311](#), [BCEL-312](#), [BCEL-313](#)
- ✓ **Mozilla Rhino:** [#405](#), [#406](#), [#407](#), [#409](#), [#410](#)

QuickSampler, SMTSampler, GuidedSampler

Human Writes a Pre-condition on Inputs

- ✓ An over-approximation of valid inputs
- ✓ Restricts the set of inputs to be generated

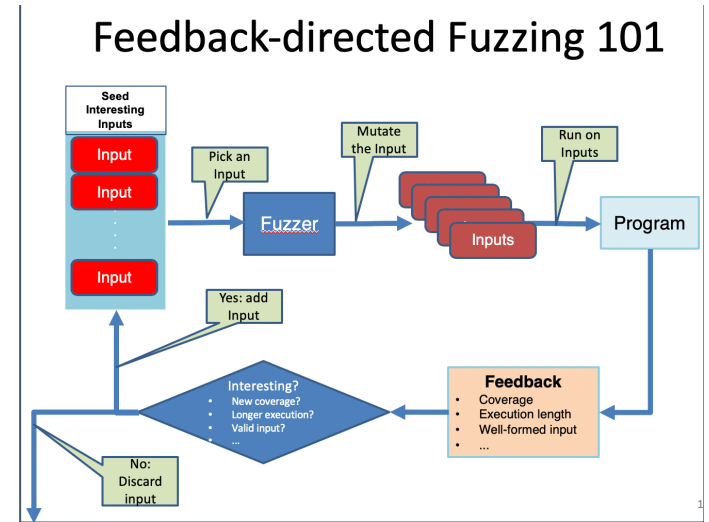
```
(node.left != NULL => node.val > node.left.val)  
/\ (node.right != NULL => node.val <= node.right.val)
```

Goal: sample inputs from the restricted input space

Generates more **diverse** set of solutions
compared to UniGen2 and SearchTreeSampler

- QuickSampler generates valid solutions
 - $10^{2.5 \pm 0.8}$ times **faster** than SearchTreeSampler
 - $10^{4.7 \pm 1.0}$ times **faster** than UniGen2
- QuickSampler generates *unique* valid solutions
 - $10^{2.3 \pm 0.7}$ times **faster** than SearchTreeSampler
 - $10^{4.4 \pm 1.1}$ times **faster** than UniGen2

Smart Fuzzing



Intention

Correctness FairFuzz
Performance Bugs PerfFuzz
Custom testing Goals FuzzFactory
Semantic Fuzzing (Zest)
Constraint Fuzzing QuickSampler SMTSampler (Dutra)



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Symbolic Execution/ Concolic Testing CUTE
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Neural Network ???
Bayesian Learning ???



Implementation

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Java Virtual Machine JQF, RLCheck
Python RLCheck
RTL using FPGA RFuzz (Laeufer)

Koushik Sen, Darko Marinov, Gul Agha
Department of Computer Science
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ABSTRACT

In *unit testing*, a program is decomposed into units which are collections of functions. A part of unit can be tested by generating inputs for a single entry function. The entry function may contain pointer arguments, in which case the inputs to the unit are *memory graphs*. The paper addresses the problem of automating unit testing with memory graphs as inputs. The approach used builds on previous work combining *symbolic* and *concrete execution*, and more specifically, using such a combination to *generate test inputs* to explore all feasible execution paths. The current work develops a method to represent and track constraints that capture the behavior of a symbolic execution of a unit with memory graphs as inputs. Moreover, an efficient constraint solver is proposed to facilitate incremental generation of such test inputs. Finally, CUTE, a tool implementing the method is described together with the results of applying CUTE to real-world examples of C code.

Categories and Subject Descriptors: D.2.5 [Software Engineering]: Testing and Debugging

General Terms: Reliability, Verification

Keywords: concolic testing, random testing, explicit path model-checking, data structure testing, unit testing, testing C programs.

1. INTRODUCTION

Unit testing is a method for modular testing of a programs' functional behavior. A program is decomposed into units, where each unit is a collection of functions, and the units are independently tested. Such testing requires specification of values for the inputs (or *test inputs*) to the unit. Manual specification of such values is labor intensive and cannot guarantee that all possible behaviors of the unit will be observed during the testing.

In order to improve the range of behaviors observed (or *test coverage*), several techniques have been proposed to automatically generate values for the inputs. One such tech-

nique is to *randomly* choose the values over the domain of potential inputs [4,8,10,21]. The problem with such random testing is two fold: first, many sets of values may lead to the same observable behavior and are thus *redundant*, and second, the probability of selecting particular inputs that cause buggy behavior may be astronomically small [20].

One approach which addresses the problem of redundant executions and increases test coverage is *symbolic execution* [1,3,9,22,23,27,28,30]. In symbolic execution, a program is executed using symbolic variables in place of concrete values for inputs. Each conditional expression in the program represents a constraint that determines an *execution path*. Observe that the feasible executions of a program can be represented as a tree, where the branch points in a program are internal nodes of the tree. The goal is to generate concrete values for inputs which would result in different paths being taken. The classic approach is to use depth first exploration of the paths by backtracking [14]. Unfortunately, for large or complex units, it is computationally intractable to precisely maintain and solve the constraints required for test generation.

To the best of our knowledge, Larson and Austin were the first to propose combining concrete and symbolic execution [16]. In their approach, the program is executed on some user-provided concrete input values. Symbolic path constraints are generated for the specific execution. These constraints are solved, if feasible, to see whether there are potential input values that would have led to a violation along the same execution path. This improves coverage while avoiding the computational cost associated with full-blown symbolic execution which exercises all possible execution paths.

Godefroid et al. proposed incrementally generating test inputs by combining concrete and symbolic execution [11]. In Godefroid et al.'s approach, during a concrete execution, a conjunction of symbolic constraints along the path of the execution is generated. These constraints are modified and then solved, if feasible, to generate further test inputs which would direct the program along alternative paths. Specifically, they systematically negate the conjuncts in the path constraint to provide a depth first exploration of all paths in the computation tree. If it is not feasible to solve the modified constraints, Godefroid et al. propose simply substituting random concrete values.

A challenge in applying Godefroid et al.'s approach is to provide methods which extract and solve the constraints generated by a *traversal*. This problem is particularly com-

CUTE: A Concolic Unit Testing Engine for C (ACM SIGSOFT Impact Award 2019)

Koushik Sen, UC Berkeley

Darko Marinov, UIUC

Gul Agha, UIUC

Thank you!

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